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TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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OUR AGONY

Twenty-three years after her brutal murder the parents of Wendy Knell hope new DNA evidence can finally trap the killer who ruined their lives

MYSTERY: Wendy was killed in her bedsit

EXCLUSIVE

By JON COATES

A FATHER has revealed how he and his wife have lived separate lives since their daughter was brutally sexually attacked and murdered in 1987.

But he hopes a potential breakthrough in the unsolved case – with police checking more than 500 men after securing a full DNA profile of the attacker – could ease their agony.

As the killer took Wendy Knell's diary containing her parent's address and has never been caught, her mother Pam Knell, 73, has spent the last 23 years waiting for the murderer to come for her.

She has never cried over her daughter's death and become a recluse, scared to be out in public places where there are crowds of men.

Her fear of men has led her to sleep in a different bedroom from her husband Bill, 75, and become withdrawn.

Mr Knell now hopes new developments in the murder hunt will finally give his family closure and allow them to live out their final years in peace.

Speaking from his home in Tonbridge, he told this newspaper he feels this year will be the one that sees the killer finally snared and brought to justice. This will bring to a close more than two decades of grief and torment that have shattered the lives of the childhood sweethearts, who grew up 100 yards apart in Hadlow and met on the village school bus.

Wendy Knell, 26, was one of two women savagely beaten, sexually assaulted and strangled in Tunbridge Wells in 1987.

She was found dead in her bedsit in Guildford Road in June, 1987.

Six months later Caroline Pierce, 20, was attacked outside her bedsit in Grosvenor Park. Her body was discovered in a remote dyke on Romney Marsh a month later.

Detectives believe the same person carried out both murders and since 2007 have a full DNA profile of the killer obtained through advances in forensic science.

They have been testing everyone interviewed in the aftermath of the murders or who could match the killer's profile for a DNA match.

So far about 500 people have been eliminated as suspects in the worldwide investigation – which has seen DNA swabs taken by local police in Ireland, Canada and Australia and then sent to Kent.

Mr Knell said: "I think now is the most encouraging time we have had for years. I know the police have to find a match for the DNA profile they have, but they seem happy the investigation is going somewhere.

"I am starting to get a flutter in my chest and get excited that this will be the year the killer will be caught. My wife and I need this

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

IN TOMORROW'S ON SUNDAY TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NEWS

- Councils meet for crunch budget talks
- Norovirus sweeps in and shuts wards
- Public school ushers in meditation lessons

REVIEW

- Former Tonbridge School boy and newly crowned Strictly Come Dancing champion Chris Hollins talks to Review

SPORT

- Kent off-spinner and KOS Media columnist James Tredwell discuss his chances of breaking into the England Test team

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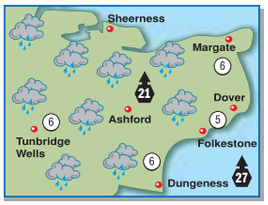
Weather



Today

Today is going to be overcast and wet with persistent heavy rain for much of the day. Staying wet through the evening too, but the rain will ease and become more showery in nature. There will be a strong southerly wind. Temperatures close to the January average. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F).

Sun & Moon

Sunrise	7.54am	Sunset	4.16pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	8.22am	Moonset	5.45pm	4.16pm to 7.53am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	11.46	6.3	–	–	00.02	6.5	12.19	6.3
Margate	00.18	4.5	12.45	4.5	00.51	4.6	13.16	4.5
St Mary's	05.19	5.4	17.36	5.2	05.52	5.5	18.08	5.2

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	7	45	Edinburgh	rain	8	46	Newcastle	rain	6	43
Belfast	rain	9	48	Glasgow	shwrs	9	48	Norwich	rain	6	43
B'ham	shwrs	8	46	Isle of Man	shwrs	9	48	Oxford	rain	6	43
B'mouth	rain	9	48	Leeds	rain	5	41	Southsea	rain	7	45
Bristol	rain	9	48	London	rain	8	46	S'hampton	rain	7	45
Cardiff	rain	9	48	Liverpool	rain	7	45	Southport	shwrs	8	46
Cork	shwrs	8	46	Manchester	rain	7	45	Swansea	shwrs	9	48

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More weather trouble is expected to flood in

AFTER all the snow, forecasters were warning of the threat of floods this weekend, ***writes Jon Coates***.

A combination of heavy rain and melting snow was likely to swell rivers and put pressure on drains.

Heavy rain is predicted all day today – Saturday – with conditions easing going into next week.

It comes just days after yet more snow caused chaos on our roads, as commuters faced long delays trying to get to work in west Kent on Wednesay after the heavy snowfall caused traffic to grind to a halt.

With major jams on the M25, A21, A25 and A26, journeys from Sevenoaks to Tunbridge Wells took more than two hours.

Many drivers simply gave up, turned around and went home.

It caught many by surprise as forecasts had predicted heavy snow in the west and central England – but few expected it to hit Kent.

Instead it snowed all-day Wednesday in most of the county – with the west being the worst hit yet again. Sevenoaks in particular found itself given several more inches of the white stuff.

One woman said she spent an hour-and-a-half travelling the few miles from Borough Green to Shipbourne, near Tonbridge, but abandoned the attempt to get to work due to the amount of snow on the ungritted roads.

Several drivers heading into Tunbridge Wells from Crowborough were also forced to abandon vehicles at the roadside as they were unable to get up hills on the A26.

There were long queues of traffic trying to get on to the M25 from the A25 in Sevenoaks and a long tailback on the A21 heading north on to the M25.

The A26 into Tunbridge Wells from Tonbridge was also severely congested, and the A25 from Borough Green to Seal was also reported to be treacherous.

Southeastern was not able to run trains from Tunbridge Wells to Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and up to London terminals due to the overnight snow and snowfall. A train also broke down at Tunbridge Wells railway station at about 8am.

Forecasters predict much of the snow to disappear by the end of the weekend as temperatures return to normal.

Dad: 'I want to know why'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

closure. If they find him and put him away, then my wife and I can lead happier lives for our last few years.

"When Wendy was killed, she was locked in her bedsit and her keys and her diary were taken. Our address was in the diary as her next of kin and from that day on my wife has been afraid the killer will be coming for her next.

"It has made her a bit of a recluse and she does not like going out without me – it has really disturbed her.

"From the day it happened until now my wife and I have lived together, but apart... If we go anywhere with crowds she cannot have men around her. That is the way it is."

He added: "I cried buckets at the time, but my wife has never cried, it is still all bottled up inside her. It has been more difficult for her than me, as it made her go into herself. It made me a workaholic.

"When they find the killer we will go to court and my wife will really let it all out.

"Then we will have a big family party, as we have two other children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren."

Mr Knell, who was a bus driver at the time of his daughter's murder, hopes finding the killer will also allow him to forget the harrowing image of his daughter after the murder.

He and his son, who was just 21 at the time, had to identify Wendy in the mortuary at Kent and Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells.

He said: "I can still to this day see her face. It is embedded in my memory, which is not a nice thing. We would like the killer to be found before we die, so the last few years of our lives can feel free.

SIMILAR: The murder of Caroline Pierce has been linked with the investigation

"I would like to know why he did it as well."

The investigation into the murders has been ongoing since 1987, but securing the full DNA profile in 2007 due to advances in technology was a major breakthrough.

Det Ch Insp Dave Withers, the head of Kent Police's cold case investigation team, has had two detectives working full-time on the murder hunt since 2008, with more officers tasked when needed. But now his team have renewed efforts to get DNA samples from everyone who knew the two victims, lived in the area at the time and people with criminal records for sexual offences and burglary, as Wendy was killed inside her bedsit.

DCI Withers said: "As time passes on, people move away from the Tunbridge Wells area, so we have been around England, Scotland and Wales, and have had four samples taken by the Garda in Ireland, and also in Canada and Australia.

"This is a worldwide investigation. It is a painstaking process, but every lead we get we will follow up. We have had an analytical profile done which helps us to prioritise which leads to follow up first.

"I always look at it as the next person we check might be the one and every check we do is one person closer to the offender."

He said the two murders have been linked due to the similarities, saying: "They were both single young females, both living in bedsits, both in roads with dead ends, both were strangled, sexually abused and beaten around the head. There was also a bunch of keys missing in both cases. It is possible the killer took them as trophies."

He added that the killer might not have committed other murders in west Kent through a change in their circumstances, such as going into a stable relationship or moving out of the area, but was likely to have been involved in a lesser form of criminality and moved up to murder.

DCI Withers said: "I firmly believe someone out there knows something about these murders. I urge them to contact us in the strictest confidence, as the parents need closure."

Anyone with information can call investigation team on 01634 884044 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Woman may have seen stab attack

OFFICERS investigating a stabbing in Tunbridge Wells have appealed for help tracing a woman who might have witnessed the attack.

A 19-year-old man suffered two stab wounds to his chest and back, which needed hospital treatment, during the assault in St John's Road outside Marconi Place, last Wednesday between 4.30pm and 5pm.

Police said the incident involved two young men, who know each other. Officers want to find a woman who was waiting at the bus stop, opposite the Arriva bus depot, close to where the stabbing took place.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested after the incident and later charged with assault. He will appear before magistrates in Sevenoaks on Thursday, January 21.

"Before getting on her bus the woman made comments to the two people involved asking them to stop fighting. Police are very keen to speak to this woman as she may have information that would be helpful to their inquiry," a spokeswoman for the force said.

If you have any information call police on 01732 379 217 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Death crash investigation completed

THE official investigation into the death of a mother-of-three killed in a collision with a police car has been completed.

Felicity Austin, 29, of The Paddock, Hadlow, had been driving home when the collision with a Metropolitan Police Skoda took place in Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, on May 5 last year.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has finished its probe into the incident and handed its report to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

A CPS spokeswoman has confirmed: "We have received the advice file from the IPCC."

The CPS will now decide whether the two police officers will face charges over the death of Ms Austin, who was a playschool teacher.

The officers had been in the area on an operation targeting organised crime. They are believed to have had their headlights and blue grill lights flashing at the time of the crash.

Quick praise for college

OFSTED inspectors said West Kent College was operating well after a flying visit recently.

The education watchdog's 'focused monitoring visit' providing an interim progress report between its full inspections.

Although the full results will not be reported to the college for at least four weeks, the initial feedback was positive, prompting the lead OFSTED inspector to say it was operating "better than business as normal".

Alison Monk, deputy principal at the Tonbridge-headquartered centre, said: "We await the full report but are delighted with the immediate response."

Festive celebration looks to be re-invented to cut costs

Hume-Kendall: Santa will be back at Bewl

EXCLUSIVE

By **JON COATES**

GOODBYE: Have we seen the end of Lapland UK at the Bewl Water venue?

THE owner of Bewl Water has vowed it will have an "improved" value-for-money Christmas attraction this year.

And that may mean a change from recent years. Lapland UK has recreated the Arctic homeland of Father Christmas on a 10-acre site at Bewl, near Lamberhurst, for the last two years.

Around 50,000 people visited the mulit-million pound winter wonderland in 2008, but it drew criticism in 2009 for its high ticket prices during the recession, which were £77.50-£87.50 per person during December.

Last week we exclusively revealed that Lapland UK bosses were planning a review of its site, running costs and ticket prices in the wake of having to discount entrance fees.

They admitted the difficulty in selling tickets at full price in 2009 due to the economic crisis gripping Britain could lead to the festive theme park being staged on a smaller scale or moved to a different location.

Now Simon Hume-Kendall, who owns Bewl Water through his Kent Attractions company, has pledged that the site will have a top quality Christmas attraction this year which allows children to meet Santa without breaking the bank. He wants Lapland UK to work with him to achieve this but is also talking to other potential operators about putting on a quality festive theme park with reduced running costs and ticket prices.

The multi-millionaire businessman said: "I can categorically say that a Christmas attraction will be held at Bewl later this year.

"We are looking at ways of cutting costs so prices will be reduced. We are working with the operators of Lapland UK and others who have put very good ideas forward to reduce prices for the public.

"I want all the people in Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas to know that it is Kent Attractions' intention to have an ever improving offer for Christmas, but just as with everything at Bewl, it will be designed to combat the recession.

"As everyone knows, Father Christmas loves coming to Bewl and he will be here as usual from the end of November onwards.

"Children will be able to come and see him, and for much better value than in previous years. We are very hopeful that Lapland UK will work with us on this, if possible."

Mr Hume-Kendall, who is the chairman of Tunbridge Wells Conservative Association and deputy chairman of Kent Conservatives, added: "We will keep all our friends advised of prices and other details as they become clear."

Carers on patrol

CARE workers took to four wheel drive vehicles to ensure their vulnerable clients were not left without vital support during the cold snap.

TerraBlu, a care agency based in Tunbridge Wells, said a crisis management plan was launched to reach people stranded in rural areas of the county.

Support workers used managing director Richard Gould's Land Rover and hired another one, which were dubbed snow patrols one and two, to ensure snowed-in elderly and people with mental and physical disabilities received their care.

Care co-ordinator Kim Murrell said: "Getting out to our rural clients was a real challenge with some of the roads impassable in a normal car.

"Some of the calls may have been late, but all vulnerable clients were visited by a support worker either on foot or in one of the snow patrols."

Bad for business

THE cost of the bad weather has set 2010 off to the worst possible start, according to business leaders.

Andrew Metcalf, of Tunbridge Wells PR firm Maxim and acting chairman of the Institute of Directors said: "The big freeze, which caused significant difficulties for thousands of businesses already finding the economic climate tough, couldn't have come at a worse time.

"Money supply for many companies remains weak and it is difficult to believe a sustained recovery can be established until this situation changes."

• ***For the full story – see the business section on page 71.***

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JON COATES looks at the success of our farmers markets

Growing interest

FARMERS markets in west Kent enjoyed record attendances in the run-up to Christmas, reflecting the growing demand for local produce, according to organisers.

Events held in Shipbourne, Penshurst, West Malling and Tunbridge Wells all benefited from the soaring popularity of food from farms and enterprises within their communities.

Farmers markets are increasingly seen as key in ensuring food sustainability in future decades, as cited in the government's recent Food 2030 report.

Shipbourne Farmers Market, which was shortlisted in the BBC Food and Farming Awards and voted one of the top 12 in the country, out of 600, by The Times in 2009, saw its attendance records for its Christmas market shattered.

It had 22 stallholders and 235 visitors at the festive event, and also reported that 2009 was its best ever year in terms of overall attendance.

Shipbourne market manager Bob Taylor said: "We achieved a record attendance for 2009 and for our Christmas farmers market despite the dreadful weather.

"People were using the market as their main pre-cursor to Christmas. We had 50 turkeys pre-ordered and shoppers were able to buy virtually everything they needed for the festive period fresh from local producers."

POPULAR: Shipbourne Farmers Market has broken it own attendance records

Penshurst Farmers Market had more than 1,000 visitors to its December market, with people again using it as the ideal opportunity to stock up for Christmas.

About 60 customers pre-booked their turkeys and meat, with one stall holder saying he had enjoyed "the best market in four-and-a-half years" and that his takings were "up by one third".

Steve Wood, the manager of West Malling Farmers Market, said in less than a year the market has more than doubled in size to now have up to 50 stallholders with a growing waiting list hoping to join it. More than 1,000 people attended their Christmas market.

Tunbridge Wells Farmers Market also enjoyed its best ever Christmas market, with 45 stallholders. Market manager Barbara Simmons said despite the icy weather, about 3,500 people visited the market.

The crowds enjoyed its first ever spit roast, as well as a traditional choir and Christmas lights outside the Town Hall in Civic Way.

Ms Simmons said: "Farmers markets tick all the green boxes and allow people to buy products that are locally grown and made.

"I think consumers are battle weary before Christmas and the chance to come and taste the products before you buy them and enjoy a Christmas experience rather than battling down the aisles of supermarkets has huge appeal for a growing number of consumers."

Visit www.kentfarmersmarket.org to find out when the next farmers market is taking place in your area.

High hopes to harvest award

A POPULAR farmers market held every fortnight in Tunbridge Wells is in the running for a prestigious national award.

The event, which promotes local producers, community groups and charities, has been selected as a finalist for the Farmers Market of the Year Award.

It is now up against nine other markets from across the UK for the accolade, awarded by the National Farmers Retail and Markets Association (FARMA), at the Farm & More conference on Tuesday, January 26.

Tunbridge Wells Farmers Market celebrated 10 years of trading this year and regularly attracts large crowds of shoppers.

It is held on the second and fourth Saturday of every month in Civic Way, outside the Town Hall, and is organised by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council.

A council spokeswoman said: "The farmers market provides a platform for new and developing businesses, as well as local charities, community groups, the library and 'Freecyclers' – who exchange goods there.

"Producers are encouraged to work together where possible, resulting in innovative products like cherry brandy, apple granola, and traditional minority ethnic meals, made using local ingredients."

Cllr Elizabeth Thomas, the council's portfolio holder for planning and economic development, said: "I am pleased and proud that Tunbridge Wells Farmers Market has been recognised for this award. It is an outstanding example of local produce being valued and sought after. Whatever the outcome I think it is a great achievement."

Sue Thomson, quality standards manager at FARMA, said: "Tunbridge Wells is an inspirational farmers market.

SHORTLIST: Tunbridge Wells Farmers Market is in the final ten for the award

"Here is a dedicated community of stallholders working together, constantly reflecting on what they offer, and introducing new and exciting foods. Already with an impressive ten years behind them, this market is built with the future in mind."

To reach the final the organisers of the farmers market submitted an entry form and were visited by members of the awards panel.

FARMA is a 700-strong farmer-owned co-operative that represents and supports farm shops, pick-your-own farms, farmers markets, box schemes and internet sales. It has been running the awards since 2002.

The next Tunbridge Wells Farmers Market takes place on January 23.

Boost your profit with workshop

SELF-employed business owners in west Kent are being encouraged to attend a free workshop, which explores ways to increase sales and profits.

Run by support organisation Business Link, the free Boost your Sales and Profits four-hour long workshops are being held from 8.30am and 2pm at the Ramada Hotel, Pembury, on Wednesday, February 17.

The workshops are exclusively for Kent-based self-employed and owner managers with no more than two full time employees.

See www.boostyoursalesandprofits.co.uk to apply for your place.

Up, up and away

AS part of the Globe and Rainbow fundraising effort 300 balloons were released on New Year's Eve

However punters at the popular Kilndown pub never realised how far they would travel until the tags started to be returned.

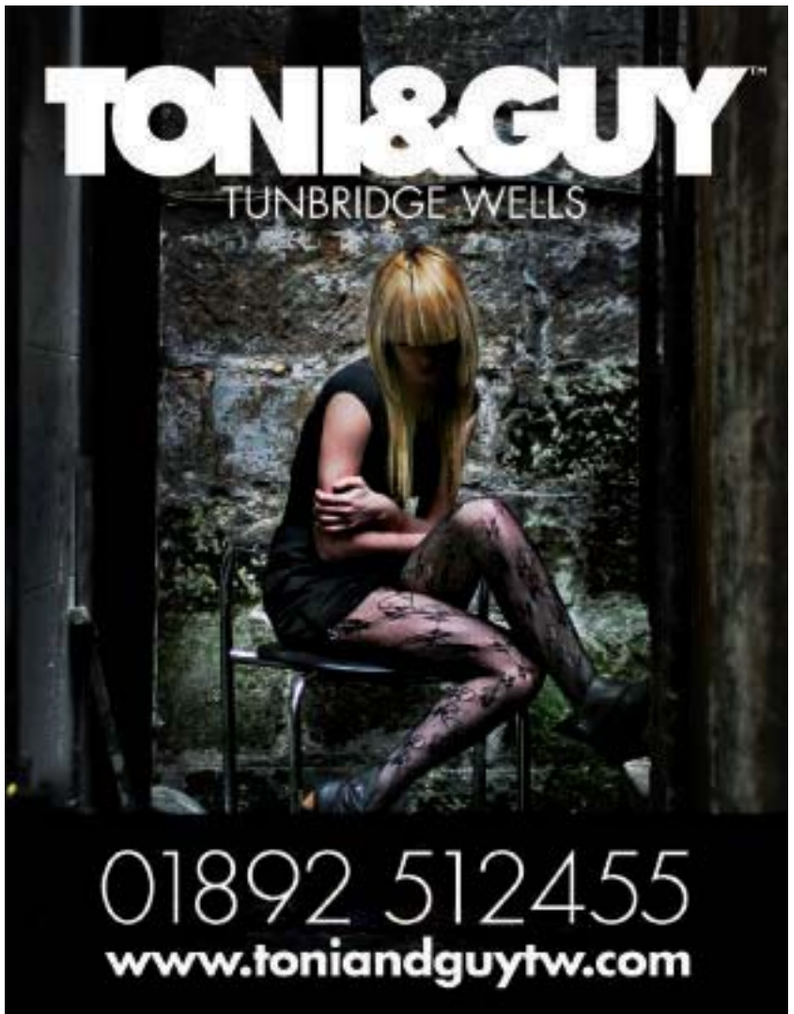
Five reached Germany, the furthest flight to date 442 miles to near Hamburg, and three were returned from France.

The sponsored effort raised £330, which was donated to Christ Church towards the cost of work on the spire.

Picturing history

PADDOCK Wood Historical Society is seeking support from all local clubs and societies to contribute to its photographic exhibition showing all that is best in their community.

It will be staged in the primary school on February 19 and 20 during half-term and anyone interested should contact Elizabeth Thomas on 01892 837756.



Exams go ahead as thaw means schools re-open

THE brief respite from the big freeze allowed schools to reopen at the start of this week in time for pupils to sit GCSE and A level exams.

There had been fears that the heavy snowfall and sub-zero temperatures would keep schools shut.

About 80 schools in the Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge districts stayed shut at the end of the week before last after the Christmas break.

Most pupils enjoyed the extended holiday by sledging, having snowball fights and building snowmen.

But the students revising for exams faced an anxious wait due to the Arctic weather, only for the temperature to rise above freezing for the first time in a week on Monday and roads to improve, which allowed all the schools to open for exams.

A Kent County Council spokesman said: "There were no Kent secondary schools closed on Monday that had exams on."

The heavy snowfall on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning forced several primary and junior schools to close in the Sevenoaks district on Wednesday, but all but one of the secondary schools in the area stayed open. Only private girls school Combe Bank closed for the day, but it still told students with exams to come in.

The primary schools closed included St Thomas' Catholic Primary in Sevenoaks, St Katherine's Church of England Primary in Knockholt, Ide Hill Church of England Primary, Sundridge and Brasted Primary, Biggin Hill Primary, Oaklands Primary in Biggin Hill, Hurst Green School, Tatsfield Primary, Oxted School, and St Mary's Juniors, Oxted.

Students are free to leave county

STUDENTS will soon be able to use the Kent Freedom Pass to go to schools outside the county.

Kent County Council has decided that from September the scheme should be expanded for students travelling beyond the county boundary.

More than 21,000 passes have been issued since the scheme was introduced in June 2007. For a £50 upfront annual fee, students in years seven to 11 can travel free anytime, anywhere.

A call for Kent Freedom Pass to be made available to all secondary school and college students was turned down.

Reward offered for information to help hook fish thieves

Angling to catch the poachers with cash

A FISHING club targeted by poachers is trying to unite anglers in west Kent to offer a reward large enough to net the offenders, ***writes Jon Coates***.

Several clubs in the region, particularly in the Weald villages, have had lakes dragged with nets to swipe valuable big fish like carp.

The poachers can steal thousands of pounds worth of fish and decimate a club's stock, which it can have spent several decades nurturing.

Cranbrook and District Angling Club was targeted in November and has since been contacted by several other clubs who have fallen victim to illegal netting.

It is offering a £1,500 reward for information leading to the conviction of the gang responsible. Cranbrook has put up £1,000 of this and Linton Angling Club has donated the extra £500.

Dave Sherwood, Cranbrook Angling Club's publicity officer, said: "We want other clubs in the area to join us in offering this reward.

"These people are being paid to take these fish to wherever. They are probably only being paid hundreds of pounds for this, not the full value of the fish.

"We think if we can make the reward big enough it may tempt some of these people, or people who know them, to come forward."

The Park Farm lake used by the angling club was dragged with a net on Saturday, November 15, during the cover of darkness.

The water, which is rented from a farmer, contained 32 carp, about 100 tench, thousands of small rudd and some pike.

Everything

Mr Sherwood said: "The carp were the target but the net they used was such a small mesh net that it would have scooped up everything, including little tench and rudd, and some pike we had in there.

"We are hoping a lot of the carp got away and hid in the reeds. The Environment Agency are going to carry out a fish survey for us free of charge, which is nice of them, but even then we will not know 100 per cent what has been taken. It could be a few years until we know exactly what has gone, unless the gang is caught."

CAUGHT: Carp are thought to be the main target, but other fish will also be taken

Three pairs of waders were found at the side of the lake after the illegal netting, which the police took away for forensic testing.

But Mr Sherwood, 38, who has been a club member and keen angler since the age of seven, believes at least six people would have been needed to drag a 100-metre net around the lake.

The fish caught would then have been put into tanks in a trailer pulled by a large four-wheel-drive vehicle.

They would then have been taken to their destination, which Mr Sherwood believes would have been a private lake wanting fully grown fish.

He said: "This is the first time this has happened to us but since then a lot of people have contacted us and said it happens quite a lot.

"We have heard that various waters around this area have been having illegal netting, it is quite a bad problem.

"In the past we have had eastern Europeans fishing for the pot but they only take one or two to eat. Gangs that know how to use a net properly can take 75 per cent of the stock of a lake, worth thousands of pounds.

"Everybody at our club was absolutely livid after the netting incident and wants to do everything we can to get the fish back and catch these people.

"We have been reviewing our security and want to warn other clubs to be on their guard. We have to work together to try and deter the people responsible."

Kent Police's rural crime unit, the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust are investigating the Cranbrook illegal netting.

Cranbrook Angling Club was formed in 1951 and now has more than 500 members.

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Thieves arrested in the nick of time

Switched off duo caught stealing timer devices at DIY store while police officers give them away for free right outside

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO bungling thieves were arrested after taking two timer switches from a DIY store – even though a mobile police station parked outside was giving them away for free.

Police were stunned by the stupidity of the shoplifters after being alerted by the store's security team.

Officers followed the thieves to their car and arrested them after finding a stolen timer switch – worth just £8.99 each – on both of them.

An officer at the scene summed up the duo's actions by saying: "Unfortunately the lights were on but there was no one in."

Police officers and civilian staff had set up stall outside the B&Q store for a crime prevention event last Sunday.

They had a luxury BMW X5 car, confiscated from a convicted drug dealer, on display to show crime does not pay and were giving out free shed alarms and timer switches, as well as advice, to stop burglaries.

The dim-witted thieves had walked past the mobile police station in the car park of the Great Lodge retail park in Tunbridge Wells.

They went into the DIY store at about 2pm and were observed by the in-store security pocketing a timer switch each.

After getting a call from the security guards police officers apprehended the men as they left the store

After being questioned in custody at Tunbridge Wells police station, a 41-year-old man and a 21-year-old man, both from the Tunbridge Wells area, have been bailed until next Friday to allow for further investigation.

CAN'T MISS DEAL: Thieves failed to notice police offering free timer switches at display outside B&Q at Great Lodge retail park

Insp Simon Wilshaw, of Tunbridge Wells police, said: "Clearly this gives a whole new definition to the phrase thick as thieves.

"It is disappointing that if they were looking to make their homes more secure that they did not think of what a partnership event like that might be giving away and enquire first rather than turning to dishonest means.

"They would have been given a timer switch each at the mobile police station – for free."

• ***Turn to page 22 for more details about the event being staged, and the story behind the car on display.***

4X4 broken into

MOTORISTS have been warned not to leave valuables in their cars after a handbag was stolen from a four-wheel drive vehicle.

The bag was taken from a silver Land Rover Discovery in Little Browns Lane, Edenbridge, at around 10am last Sunday.

Officers said a metallic green saloon car with at least two people in it pulled up alongside the Land Rover.

A noise was heard before the car sped off quickly towards Honeypot Lane in Oxted.

A window on the Land Rover was smashed and the handbag was taken.

Anyone with information about this inicident is asked to contact police on 01732 379217 or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Search for statue

OFFICERS investigating the theft of a statue have appealed for information about its whereabouts.

The 5ft stone figure of an 18th century male wearing a long cape was stolen overnight from a garden in Stone Street Road, Ivy Hatch near Ightham.

Police said the statue was on a pedestal, which has not been taken, and wheel marks were discovered near the stand suggesting it had been taken using a trolley.

Anyone with information about this inicident is asked to contact police on 01732 379217 or Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Roadworks alert

CRANBROOK residents are being warned that the entire length of Quaker Lane from Angley to Waterloo Roads, is expected to be closed to traffic for up to three weeks as energy company EDF installs new electricity supply cables.

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Witnesses sought to door vandalism

A SHOP door has been smashed during an attempted burglary in West Malling.

Officers launched an appeal for information after the incident at Tesco in the High Street on Tuesday at 2.50am.

At least two men are thought to have been involved. Police said nothing appeared to be missing from the store.

If you have any information about the incident call police on 01732 379 217 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Snow need for soldiers on alert

ARMY units were placed on standby with all terrain four-wheel drive vehicles after worries that remote communities could be cut off due to the weather conditions.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service said that the military units, consisting of a four tonne lorry and a Landrover, were at Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Thanet, Ashford, Folkestone, Gravesend and Medway.

They were stood down as conditions improved on Monday.

Gun teen arrest

A TEENAGER has been arrested after reports that an air weapon had been used to smash the window of a house in Westerham.

The 17-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of committing criminal damage and bailed while officers carry out further inquiries.

A property in London Road was damaged during the incident, which occurred last Saturday at around 2pm.

NHS make no bones about staff dedication

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE number of patients with broken bones has more than doubled this winter due to the heavy snowfall and icy conditions.

Kent & Sussex Hospital in Tunbridge Wells dealt with 186 fractures at its accident and emergency department between December 18, 2009 and last Saturday, compared to only 88 for the same period last year.

At Maidstone's emergency unit, staff treated 139 fractures after people injured themselves through slips, trips and falls in the freezing conditions. Last winter 53 fractures were dealt with at the hospital.

With weather forecasters predicting a rise in temperatures by the weekend providing an end in sight to the longest cold snap to hit Britain since 1981, Glenn Douglas, chief executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, praised the efforts of health workers: "I knew our staff were first-rate, committed professionals but I didn't know they were this good. Many of them have slept at work during this past week so that our services continue as normal for patients.

"Yet more staff have fought their way in on foot or have braved the icy roads to keep our patients safe and sound.

"Other staff have worked through the night and stayed on in the morning while rotas were hastily amended, filled and fixed to cover those who can't get in. That was despite the best efforts of our own transport team and partners and friends who used their own 4x4 vehicles to come to our aid.

"I can't thank enough all the many people who pitched in, with such commitment, well above and beyond the call of duty."

At the height of the bad weather, up to 30 key clinical staff slept overnight at the Kent & Sussex and Maidstone Hospital more than once to ensure patients received a normal service the next day.

During last week's big freeze porters slept over at Pembury Hospital too and were up in the early hours clearing snow and ice from the site to make it safe for patients and staff.

The trust said that dozens of staff who lived locally came in on foot to help maintain services and standards of care when other colleagues were snowed in.

FRACTURED: Treatment of broken bones is up more than 100 per cent this winter

Fuller will get final decision on top job at CPS this week

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S Chief Constable Michael Fuller told MPs this week why he believes he should be appointed the next head of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

Mr Fuller – who is Britain's first black police chief – has been selected by Attorney General Baroness Scotland as the preferred candidate to replace current Chief Inspector Stephen Wooler, whose contract at the CPS expires at the end of March.

An announcement regarding Mr Fuller's future is due to be made on Thursday.

Knowledge

Earlier this week he told members of the House of Common's Justice Committee why he thought he was a more suitable choice for the role than a former judge or lawyer.

He said: "While I don't have knowledge of the day-to-day work of a Crown prosecutor, I still bring a lot of knowledge of the system and experience of being a stakeholder of the CPS.

"I have experience of running organisations and police departments successfully."

Mr Fuller told the committee that adjusting to policy changes and providing value for money represent two of the biggest challenges for the Chief Inspector of the CPS, but that he was fully prepared to cope with both.

He also refuted a suggestion by Sleaford and North Hykeham MP Douglas Hogg that the police and CPS had an "incestuous" relationship and were too closely linked for one to be scrutinised by the other.

Mr Fuller said: "Decision-making has always been independent and I think the public would see me as someone who would bring objectivity and scrutiny where it's needed.

WAITING: Fuller was interviewed by MPs

"You need a certain degree of knowledge of the CPS and how it works, and more importantly of the rubbing points. I've seen them at first hand and can therefore make recommendations that are credible."

Mr Fuller joined Kent Police as Chief Constable in January 2004, having previously been with the Met since starting as a cadet in 1975.

Should he be appointed to the role, it is believed his current deputy, Adrian Leppard, will fill in as Kent's Chief Constable until a permanent replacement can be found.

Freeze highlights need for better gas storage

SHADOW energy secretary Greg Clark has called for better gas storage as limited supplies dwindled in the sub-zero weather conditions.

The National Grid was forced to issue a 'gas balancing alert' on Monday afternoon, calling on power firms and large industries to cut back on their consumption amid concerns over supply levels.

Mr Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, said: "It is true that residential consumers are not going to be cut-off, but businesses are affected and that clearly shows there is not enough gas getting through.

"I've said for some time that we need to have better supplies of gas in storage to make sure we do not need to cut businesses off and it keeps prices down."

He said the UK needed to buy plenty of gas in the summer when prices were cheaper so that there was enough in storage for the winter months when it is more expensive.

Last week shortages forced gas to be switched off at nearly 100 businesses in the North West and East Midlands to protect domestic power supplies as demand soared due to the freezing temperatures.

Mr Clark said: "Even though Kent is not in the first wave, any business in Kent would be worried that they are next."

National Grid blamed the most recent alert on a sharp drop in the supply of gas from a field off Norway due to the bad weather.

"This winter has exposed how fragile Britain's energy security is following a decade of Government indifference," Mr Clark added.

"As much gas as physically possible is being pumped out of our limited storage, yet there is still a shortfall to be made up. Were it not for the recession having reduced demand the situation would be still more precarious. Britain must do what our competitors do – have enough storage to see us through the winter."

Warm words at landlord forum

LANDLORDS can attend a free session next week to find out about the latest safety and energy efficiency requirements for rented properties, as well as the details on insulation advice and grants.

The West Kent Landlords' Forum will take place at Sevenoaks District Council offices in Argyle Road, on Wednesday, January 27.

It is open to all private landlords in the region.

Doors open at 6.30pm for light refreshments and presentations will begin at 7pm.

To book a place at the event, call Steven Richardson at 01732 227393, or e-mail housing@sevenoaks.gov.uk.

Councils united for partnership

THREE councils have joined forces to provide a shared licensing service for processing and issuing applications.

The new Licensing Partnership, involving Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells councils will be officially launched on Tuesday.

It is one of the first of its kind and will have a central administration team based in Sevenoaks, with licensing officers and administration support at the other two authorities. The joint licensing team will be responsible for issuing licences for sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment, gambling premises and permits, street trading, and taxis.

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Forum for rising star

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

POP sensation Ellie Goulding will perform in a week of events celebrating the anniversary of Kent's longest running music venue.

The Forum in Tunbridge Wells was launched 17 years ago, transforming itself for a public toilet into a popular venue, and has built up a reputation for attracting some of the biggest new acts on the music scene.

This will continue with its Party Week from next Saturday until the following Saturday, with Ellie Goulding headlining a gig on Wednesday, January 27.

The 23-year-old from Hertfordshire, who studied at the University of Kent in Canterbury, has been tipped as the hottest emerging act of 2010.

Goulding, who combines acoustic guitar with electronic and futuristic dance beats in a style being dubbed 'folktronica', topped the BBC's Sound of 2010 list.

This is compiled from the tips of 165 music critics, broadcasters and bloggers. Previous winners Little Boots (2009), Adele (2008), Mika (2007) and Corinne Bailey Rae (2006) have all gone on to have major success.

Goulding, who has already supported Little Boots on tour and appeared on Jools Holland's TV show, has been putting the finishing touches to her debut album with top producer Mark Ronson.

The album is to be released in the spring, so this could be one of the last opportunities to see the rising singer-songwriter in an intimate venue before she hits the big time.

She will be supported by Tunbridge Wells singer Klaus Says Buy The Record, who appeared on Channel 4's Mobile Act Unsigned and The Help Movement.

The Party Week kicks off on Saturday, January 23, with Spycatcher, which includes members of Gallows, The Painted Smiles, and Feed the Rhino a Kent-based band.

Then on Monday, January 25, the Forum's famed battle of the bands competition returns for its ninth year. Stage 9 will see The Antics, Black Hawks and The Seperation go head to head for the title.

LINE UP: Ellie Goulding will perform on the Wednesday, while Dogs and Gallows are also on the Party Week bill

The night after Goulding's gig will see a secret guest, Son of Kirk and local boy Tom Williams, from Tom Williams and The Boat, perform an exclusive solo show on Thursday, January 28.

New Future Music will present a Heartbreak DJ set and Doop DJs on the Friday, before the finale of the week brings Dogs, Allegro, Needs Must and Filthy Nights to the venue on Saturday, January 30.

A spokesman for the venue said: "The Forum is Kent's longest running venue and we have had an incredible 2009.

"We were lucky to get some of the biggest new and classic names in the popular music scene, such as White Lies, Graham Coxon, Ash, and Mumford and Sons.

"Hopefully we can improve on what has been a tremendous year for the Forum in 2010, which will start with the exciting events lined up for Party Week."

See www.twforum.co.uk for more details.

Free hearing aid

A CHARITY that supports deaf and hard-of-hearing people throughout Kent will hold a free aftercare clinic for hearing aid users in West Malling next week.

People with NHS hearing aids can drop in and get their hearing aids cleaned and re-tubed, and also collect fresh batteries for free.

They can also get free advice and information on Hi Kent's wide range of equipment, including special door entry systems, smoke alarms, telephones, conversation aids and television listening devices at the session at Age Concern in Norman Road on Thursday, January 21, from 10am to 11.30am.

Hi Kent chief executive John Clayton said: "We are bringing our free service to the West Malling community on a regular basis and helping local people to get the best out of their hearing aids.

"There is no need to make an appointment – people should just turn up and they will be seen promptly."

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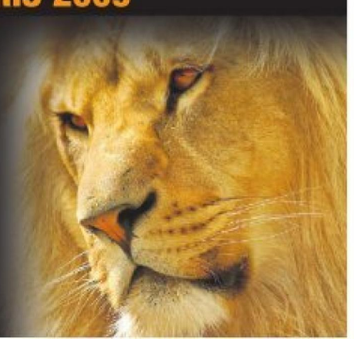

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

Rail users hit in the pocket by Whitehall's transport review

By **MARIJKE COX**

COMMUTERS across Kent are facing higher travel charges following a Government review of transport policy.

And train passengers parking in many of the station car parks will now also find they have to fork out more money on parking costs.

The changes – which came into effect last week – form part of the Department of Transport's new policy which involves reducing the subsidies it pays into the industry. As a result, commuter fares for Southeastern's unregulated off-peak tickets have increased by 7.3 per cent, and others by 2.8 per cent.

Fares from outside of the Travelcard area, including the London underground, have seen a 1.6 per cent increase. Some ticket prices, however, have stayed the same.

A spokesman for Southeastern said: "Government says the budget for running the cost of the railways should not be paid by subsidies through the taxpayer. The Government has stated it should be put back on those who use the service – it will not subsidise the cost of the railways as in Europe.

"What Government is doing is reducing the subsidies it pays to us, but to compensate it is allowing us to increase the ticket prices."

Charles Horton, managing director at Southeastern, added: "The majority of our passengers are commuters who travel into London on a daily basis. Most of these are season ticket holders and any changes to their fares are regulated by the Department for Transport. The Government's stated policy is to reduce the subsidy paid to the transport industry and for passengers to pay more towards the cost of using rail services."

But Tunde Olatunji, South East spokesman for Passenger Focus, an independent rail consumer watchdog, believes commuters will place the blame with Southeastern rather than the Government.

He said: "Southeastern may use the lack of government subsidies as its defence, but for the passenger it is Southeastern they pay the money to and therefore the company people will hold responsible for the changes."

He added: "This all comes down to value for money. If costs are increasing the passengers will want to see the service improving."

Car parking costs have also gone up at the majority of station car parks in Kent, but Southeastern defended this by saying it is the first change the company has made in 18 months. "In terms of car parking, the majority of station car park prices have gone up by differing amounts," a spokesman said.

"This has been done to help cover running costs. We are simply bringing this in line with what has to be paid to Network Rail and money for the upkeep of the car parks."

Mr Olatunji said although car parking is a business and people have to pay to park, the level of service should be kept up.

"Passengers have to pay parking costs, otherwise there would be too much pressure on the car parks," he said.

"The issue is about how much Southeastern charge in relation to the level of service offered.

"There was a case at Hollingbourne station where a car was stolen, but when the police checked the CCTV there was no tape in there."

For more information go to www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.

REGULATED FARES FROM JANUARY 2010

	2009			JANUARY 2010		
STATION	Return	Monthly	Annual	Return	Monthly	Annual
Orpington	£9.80	£139	£1,448	£9.80	£139	£1,448
Tonbridge	£22.90	£288	£3,000	£23.30	£292.60	£3,048
Hastings	£46.30	£368.60	£3,840	£47.10	£368.60	£3,840
Ashford Int	£40.60	£362.90	£3,780	£41.30	£368.60	£3,840
Ashford Int High Speed	£48.70	£435.50	£4,536	£49.50	£442.40	£4,608
Ramsgate	£47.00	£366.70	£3,820	£47.80	£372.50	£3,880
Ramsgate High Speed	£55.10	£439.30	£4,576	£56.00	£446.20	£4,648
Faversham	£35.90	£345.60	£3,600	£36.50	£351	£3,656
Faversham High Speed	£41.30	£415.90	£4,332	£41.90	£422	£4,396

OFF-PEAK (UNREGULATED) DAY RETURN FROM JAN 2010

	OFF-PEAK RETURN		SUPER OFF-PEAK RTN	
STATION	2009	Jan 2010	2009	Jan 2010
Sevenoaks	£8.80	£9.40	n/a	n/a
Margate (not HS)	£25.30	£27.10	£18.10	£18.60
Hastings	£24.20	£26.00	£18.10	£18.60
Sittingbourne	£16.00	£17.20	£14.10	£14.50
Sittingbourne High Speed	£18.70	£20.10	n/a	n/a
Folkestone Central	£24.60	£26.40	£18.10	£18.60
Folkestone Central High Speed	£28.70	£30.80	n/a	n/a

Tree vandals may be bungling ram-raiders

POLICE are hunting a gang of ram-raiders believed to have blocked roads by felling trees to give them more time to escape after a bank raid.

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

The offenders used a silver four-wheel drive vehicle to try and remove the cash machine from Barclays Bank in Westerham on New Year's Eve.

They repeatedly smashed the vehicle into the front of the bank in Market Square at about 1.30am, causing structural damage. But they were unable to remove the ATM from the bank wall and fled empty-handed.

Police said the gang is believed to have also used a dark 4x4 vehicle, which drove away with the damaged silver 4x4 towards Croydon Road.

Officers attending the incident were delayed by a tree down across the A25, Westerham Road, and another down on Goodley Stock Road.

A police spokeswoman said: "Both trees appear to have been felled using chainsaws and officers are investigating if this is linked to the attempted burglary."

Surrey Police were called to an abandoned Mitsubishi Shogun which had been set on fire in Church Lane, Warlingham, at 2.10am.

This 4x4 vehicle will be examined by forensic experts to see if it was used in the ram-raid in Westerham.

The bank was cordoned off for forensic officers to scour the scene for evidence to help the investigation.

Det Sgt Miles Bishop said: "We have a number of lines of inquiry to follow in respect of what was clearly an attempt to remove the cash machine.

"The public have been very helpful in coming forward with information and I would ask that anyone who witnessed the incident but has not yet spoken to police to contact us.

"Some roads were closed in the area while we carried out initial inquiries which we appreciate may have inconvenienced residents. Every effort was made to re-open these as quickly as possible and we are grateful to the community for their patience and understanding."

Police would also like to hear from anyone who saw similar vehicles in the area around the time the incident occurred and anyone who saw trees being cut down on Goodley Stock Road and Westerham Road sometime before 1.30am.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 01732 379217, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or to email appeals.westkent@kent.pnn.police.uk

PRETTY: Chilstone Bambury Fountain in the show gardens

Stunning sculpture

STONE makers Chilstone have managed to stay open despite the big freeze in a bid to fulfil customer's orders.

After a record December, the firm based in Langton Green has been working on a large order of classical columns for a prestigious Japanese company.

General manager Steve Clark said the Arctic conditions have not helped, with completed orders being frozen to the ground and passing trade being discouraged.

But he added: "We have a number of international clients who are quite unaware of the kind of weather we have had to deal with and we are working hard to ship out their orders.

"We know local people have had a lot of difficulty getting around, but if they are able to visit, our lake and show gardens in Langton Green are open to the public and look very pretty in the snow."

Last chance to enjoy panto

IN the finale of the pantomime season, Paddock Wood Magpies Christmas show Beauty and the Beast takes to the stage from Thursday to Saturday, January 28-30, at 7.30pm with a 2pm matinee on the final day. For tickets call 01892-834365.

Over in Lamberhurst the panto will be Alice in Wonderland in the Memorial Hall on Friday and Saturday, January 29-30, from 7.30pm with a matinee at 2.30pm on the final day. Tickets are available from Peter Sands butchers.

Colouring in

SANDHURST village should be a blaze of colour in the spring and the envy of other rural communities as the parish council has been awarded a grant to plant 1,650 bulbs in the area, a job that will be carried out with the assistance of the local primary school.

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SAD: Bob the Builder tragically had to be put down, but many other horses can be saved by the care and attention they will get at Brownbread Horse Rescue Centre

Good neigh-bours needed to support rescue centre work

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

AN INTERNATIONAL horse judge is regularly putting her life on the line taking care of hundreds of horses.

With her husband Tony Smith, Dinty Steains runs the Brownbread Horse Rescue Centre which operates widely in the county, taking care of horses that have been subjected to mind-numbing cruelty.

She said: "I have been doing this for many years, and yet year after year, we are seeing the same people carrying out such awful cruelty to their horses.

"And if you point out what they are doing wrong, they often become very aggressive. I was once attacked by a man with a sword.

"It can be very scary but I am doing this for the horses, not my own well-being."

When asked why so many people would bother obtaining horses and then letting them die starving in fields, she said: "I wish I knew. If they can't look after them, why do they get more? I just don't understand it."

She said her charity operates across the South East using an army of volunteers, often women and girls, but they still need more help.

Dinty, from Ashburnham, East Sussex, said: "It's hard enough doing this in the summer, but with the weather we have had recently, our volunteers are literally risking their lives getting to the herds to feed them and provide water that is not frozen solid.

"We do need some more public help, but we are doing this for the love of the horses – we do not get paid ourselves. Everyone is a volunteer except one girl we pay as a groom."

She added: "The situation is out of control. No matter how many times some of these owners are taken to court, they simply carry on getting new horses and allowing them to starve and die in the fields.

"It is heartbreaking work, but we are determined to carry on despite the dangers of abuse and violence.

"We are saving some of them, but we know we can't get to all the horses in need and many more are dying. We are monitoring over 100 in Kent at the moment, but there are so many more we can't get to."

Mr Smith said: "The real tragedy is that a large number of our visits are repeats from being investigated a year ago. Some of the big cases are re-offenders, they just carry on as if nothing has happened.

"It is very distressing for our team to deal with herds of neglected horses, waiting for someone to come with food and water."

He added: "We are all volunteers and to carry on the work we need support in the way of money, hay, feed, rugs, horse gear and the loan or donation of a 4x4 vehicle.

"We have field officers all over the UK but our main area of operation is Kent, Surrey and Sussex."

For more information contact Dinty Steains, Ashburnham, Battle, TN33 9NX or call 01424 892381. Tony Smith is always willing to give talks to groups or clubs, for details email tony.brownbread@tesco.net.

Your guide to days out

THE new, free, edition of Visit Kent magazine is now available.

It's packed full of details about things to do in Kent, from family days out to great shopping tips.

Within the magazine there's also a what's on section, accommodation guide and the chance to win a luxury spa break.

Nightlife, arts and culture, historic buildings and the county's fascinating maritime heritage are also under the spotlight.

You can pick up a copy of the glossy magazine at visitor information centres, tourist attractions and hotels, or alternatively you can read the e-edition at kentnews.co.uk.

■ SEVENTY per cent of people who voted in a poll at kentnews.co.uk think more grammar schools should be built in Kent.

Only 30 per cent of the 1,513 people who voted thought more grammar schools should not be created.

However, neither of the main parties seems likely to sanction more grammar schools in the county, whichever of them wins the next general election.

Fears for feathered friends

By **MIKE BENNETT**
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is appealing for people to spare a thought for the birds that need real help to survive the cold snap.

With their natural food covered in snow and ice and frozen ground and lakes, they are struggling for supplies.

RSPB spokesperson, Gemma Rogers, said: "Freezing weather is a potential death sentence for many birds, but by feeding in your garden it can help them survive the worst of the weather.

"Insects become harder to find and seeds and berries can be locked away by snow and frost. Just a little water, food and shelter can turn a garden into a vital haven for birds in winter months."

Annette and David Risley who run the Folly Wildlife Rescue charity at Eridge Green have been working round the clock attempting to cope with demand.

Every available space at their sanctuary is full of injured and abandoned birds and animals and the weather has meant their team of volunteers have been unable to attend the farm to help them due to snowdrifts virtually cutting them off for a while.

Dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of injured, orphaned and distressed wild animals and birds across west Kent, they specialise in saving animals like deer, badgers, foxes and hedgehogs as well as injured and fledgling birds of all species.

They are currently awaiting permission to expand and develop a new wildlife hospital on a five-acre site in Fairview Lane.

Mrs Risley, said: "We have a long list of people who have rescued birds and are keeping them at their own homes as we have been unable to get out to collect and they have been unable to get to us to deliver them.

"We are always full, but never turn anything away. We have songbirds that have been attacked by cats or just become victims of the cold, a selection of tawny owls hit by cars, a kestrel that collapsed in the snow, hedgehogs and many other small animals.

Help

"The list is almost endless but we will cope and attempt to help them all.

"Our only big bit of luck was that our animal food supplies were delivered the night before the heaviest blizzard, so we will survive, but we always need more help."

But the cold snap has brought an influx of twitchers, with rarer bird visitors to both the Bough Beech and Sevenoaks reserves including the Smew, small coastal ducks, being driven inland in search of food, and a number of bitterns from the continent being spotted.

Dave Hutton, head of reserves in west Kent for the Kent Wildlife Trust admits things have been difficult, particularly for small birds like the wren, but regards it as a natural process as they face the elements.

He said: "In the grand scale of things it has not been unusual to have these conditions. Wildlife can generally survive these short cold snaps and it is part of a natural process.

"The key thing is the farmed landscape that provides and controls the amount of food and shelter available for wildlife.

"We would encourage landowners to leave crops for overwintering birds and not crop back hedgerows too closely to provide for their protection. But it must be stressed that farmers are generally getting better in supporting the environment by managing the land for wildlife."

Despite conditions the RSPCA, which has been operating an emergency-only service for the past week, is coping.

Chief Inspector Steve Dockery was happy to report they had not been involved in any specific weather-related rescues across west Kent.

But director Andrew Tyler of Tonbridge-based Animal Aid this week called for a ban on all sporting shooting.

He said: "We are campaigning to stop birds being produced for sport that are fed until the end of the season, but when that comes in early February they are left with all the other wildlife to struggle to survive."

• The Folly Wildlife Rescue Centre can be contacted on 01892 750865.

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JULIE MADDOCKS

Let's hear it for the mums and dads

HOW bad must the majority of parents be feeling this week, after reading that they are failing their children in what they put in their packed lunches?

According to a study, only one per cent of lunch boxes meet the nutritional standards set for school meals in England, with more than a quarter containing sweets, savoury snacks, and sugary drinks, which have all been banned under rules on healthy prepared meals for local authority schools in England.

Since half of UK children eat a packed lunch – totalling 5.5 billion lunches a year – that's an awful lot of us simply getting it wrong, again.

I don't know about you, but I'm getting a little tired of my parenting skills being corrected by the powers that be. If it's not what we're feeding our kids, it's what we're letting them watch on the TV, the time spent on computers, volume of their music, how they speak, or the time they go to bed.

The interesting part is, if you start your own research into the numerous negative British parenting stories, it's amazing how many contradictory reports there are.

It was a relief this week to be told that parents need not nag their child to turn off their music while studying, because the chances are they will do so anyway. And that research suggested that our 'attempts to prevent music being played while our offspring are studying are likely to be unproductive'.

That's a bit different to a report from October 2007, which indicated that students studying while listening to music would find it off putting, and counter-productive.

Let's not ignore the recommendation of England's chief medical officer Sir Liam Donaldson, who told us just before Christmas last year, that if we allow our children alcohol at home, we could be increasing their chances of binge drinking in later life.

But just two years earlier a study carried out by a Liverpool University in May 2007, stated that teenagers who drink alcohol in moderation with their parents are less likely to binge drink.

With continuous contradictory advice, is it any wonder we do sometimes get it wrong?

I've been lucky enough to work in a variety of roles throughout my career, but probably my most difficult is being a mum. The day we brought our first baby home from hospital, I was scared stiff. Unlike the washing machine there was no manual, and as he was the most precious thing I'd ever owned, we were desperate to get it right.

Of course, I've made mistakes and I don't think I'm in the running for Mum of the Year. Neither do I pretend to know everything, but I do think that the majority of parents try hard for their children, and am sure that they know better than many reports what is right and wrong for them.

So, isn't it about time they were congratulated for their hard work? I applaud all those parents trying their best for their kids, in one of the most difficult jobs around.

And in defence of British youngsters, our boys have some fantastic friends in their peer groups. They're often visitors in our home, demonstrating good manners and social skills, which I'm sure can be attributed to their upbringing.

In the hope that I'm getting some things right, fingers crossed if you meet either Matt or Mike Thompsett they're polite and well-mannered. If they are remember – that's my boys – if they're not; I've never heard of them.

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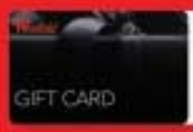

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Kent pupils achieve another year of record GCSE results

By **MARIJKE COX**

THE number of children achieving top GCSE results has risen for the eighth year running, according to new Government figures.

School Achievement and Attainment Tables, published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families this week, showed an increase in the number of Kent pupils gaining five GSCEs compared to this time last year.

Teenagers achieving five A*-C grades between 2008 and 2009, rose by 5.4 per cent – around 850 students – to 73 per cent.

The tables also showed the number of Key Stage Four pupils, aged 15-16, gaining A*-C grades in English and maths had risen by two per cent to 52 per cent since 2008.

This beat the UK average of 49.8 per cent.

Dover Grammar School for Girls, Cranbrook School, Dartford Grammar School for Girls, Invicta Grammar School for Girls, The Judd School, Oakwood Park Grammar and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Girls saw all their students gaining a minimum of five GCSEs.

And schools in the Government's National Challenge programme – which looks to ensure 30 per cent of children gain five higher-grade GCSEs including in English and maths – were praised for showing excellent improvements.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for children, families and education at KCC, put the success down to the commitment and support seen throughout Kent's schools.

"I'm very impressed by what I have seen – students, teachers and parents should be very proud of these results," she said.

"Our vision is to give Kent's young people the best possible start in life by providing the best education for every child. Vocational subjects are also very important. Students should be able to do things that interest them. Exams are important, but there are others things that are just as essential."

Cllr Hohler also paid tribute to the federation scheme which has seen a number of schools teaming up to be run under one governing body.

Two of the schools now working in this way are Dane Court Grammar School, in Broadstairs, and King Ethelbert, in Birchington.

Kind Ethelbert was dubbed a 'failing' school by Government in 2008, when GCSE results showed it had not made the 30 per cent pass rate set out by the National Challenge. But instead of closing it down and forming an academy – the normal outcome for 'failing' schools – it was teamed up with Dane Court Grammar.

Headteacher Paul Luxmoore took over the running of both schools and since the move King Ethelbert has showed a 20 per cent improvement in grades, with more than a third of pupils achieving five GCSEs at grade C or above.

Mr Luxmoore said: "It has created a very positive change within the schools. Students work together and they have benefited from it – confidence levels have really grown."

Rosalind Turner, managing director for children, families and education, said the key to Kent's success is providing high quality early years education, followed by excellent primary and secondary education.

"This is so that every child can reach their expected level of progress and attainment," she said. "They learn at different rates and have different interests and abilities. Personal circumstances and challenges are also a factor. That is why we are developing a vision for learning which starts from birth and continues through adulthood."

GOVERNMENT'S TARGETS CRITICISED

HEADTEACHERS celebrating record GCSE results have criticised the Government's targets set out in the National Challenge.

Despite high results across Kent, school leaders slammed the system which requires every secondary school to ensure 30 per cent of its pupils gain five higher-grade GCSEs, including English and maths. Schools unable to meet these targets face being closed down and turned into an academies.

But concerns were raised at a meeting at Kent County Council about schools with a high percentage of special educational needs pupils who struggle with some subjects, making it harder for them to reach the necessary grades.

But results showed a marked improvement in a number of Kent schools at risk under the National Challenge programme and education chiefs at KCC called on the Government to ensure future funding is available to support the system.

Another issue raised at the meeting was the shortage of teachers, particularly in maths and English. This was blamed on the pressures faced by teachers in core subjects in relation to the National Challenge.

Absences by pupils was also an issue as figures were released this week showing the county average for persistent absentees was 6.6 per cent – higher than the UK average of 5.9 per cent. This was blamed, in some cases, on social problems where some parents and children do not see education as important.

Undertakers' obesity headache

FUNERALS can be big affairs, and they are getting larger all the time, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

As we all get heavier as a nation, the dearly departed are causing more problems in death, say undertakers.

John Weir runs several undertakers' offices in Kent, and is also the UK spokesman for the National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors.

He said although the complications caused by oversize bodies is not widespread yet, it is getting worse as we eat more in life.

His company has invested in an electric hoist to move bodies around and lower them into larger-than-life coffins, and he said many hospital mortuaries have done the same.

He said: "We have to think of the health and safety of our staff. Some people are large when they die, and we need to behave in a thoroughly professional and dignified manner at all times."

The complications continue when it comes to the actual funeral itself. Cranes have been known to lift coffins into double-sized graves before the congregation arrives to avoid any embarrassing scenes.

Some councils are charging by the foot for their graves – so the bigger the body and coffin, the more the plot costs.

Cranes

Mr Weir said: "Crematoria don't usually do that – it's just one flat charge."

But he said Vinters Park in Maidstone has recently introduced a larger cremator which is 41 inches wide as opposed to the more usual 28 just to cope with an increase in larger coffins.

He said there is a knock-on effect for the taxpayers as local authorities have to pay for the installation of the new cremators.

He added: "The charges for the funeral are the same though whether you are five stone or 50."

The larger facilities are needed for bodies weighing more than 25st.

With bigger coffins comes the problem of transporting them with some bodies fitting into standard hearses. Again, usually away from the eyes of relatives, the body is then transported using vans or even sometimes lorries fitted with cranes to lower them straight into the over-sized grave.

The knock-on effect is that cemeteries run out of valuable space quicker, forcing some authorities to reuse old plots.

Mr Weir said the largest person he had buried had been around 31st and needed a coffin 3ft 2in wide.

He added: "The main concern we have is to ensure a family is not exposed to any indignity. If someone is very large, then we would convey the remains, with the family's consent, to the cemetery and the grave without them being present, so that when they arrive they are not faced with the indignity of seeing the staff struggling."

Coffin maker Julian Atkinson said his products are now larger by two inches in length and width. He said: "We now have to be quite creative – by maybe using a cigar-shaped coffin or casket which is less tapered.

"We used to do one a month that was oversized, and now it is a two or three a week.

"In the last five years or so, the numbers of these ones has gone up tenfold. It used to be unusual, now it is common practice."

SUPER-SIZE: Larger coffins are becoming icreasingly common as the size of the nation goes up, giving funeral directors a bigger challenge

for
Tunbridge Wells
Borough Councils'
Planning Notices

See Page 58

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Police using dealer's car to fight crime

By JON COATES
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

A LUXURY car seized from a convicted drug dealer has been displayed in a town centre to show that crime does not pay.

The BMW X5 stopped outside the main nightspots in Tunbridge Wells on Friday, January 8, before being parked at the town's Great Lodge retail park last Sunday.

A mobile police station was also set up at the Longfield Road shopping area to allow officers to give out crime prevention and safety advice.

The BMW car was taken from Thomas Fellowes of Maidstone, who is currently serving a four-and-a-half year sentence for drug dealing.

Following his conviction on nine counts of supplying class A drugs at Maidstone Crown Court in October 2008, the BMW car was taken under the Misuse of Drugs Act, as it was used in the commission of his crimes.

Kent Police also obtained a confiscation order under the Proceeds of Crime Act allowing officers to recover further assets and money obtained by criminal activity, which included another car, worth around £6,500, a Rolex watch worth around £5,000, jewellery and cash from his bank account.

The force now owns the BMW car and its tactical operations department will use it for specialist policing.

Detective Inspector Mark Fairhurst, of Kent Police's serious economic crime unit, said: "The idea of putting the car on display is to get the message across that crime does not pay.

"Criminals need to know that we will come after them and we will take their assets and use them in our fight against crime."

The vehicle had been due to be displayed beside the Millennium Clock Tower at Fiveways in the pedestrian shopping precinct in Tunbridge Wells on the Saturday before Christmas, but the event had to be cancelled due to the first bout of heavy snowfall that hit west Kent.

Insp Simon Wilshaw, from Tunbridge Wells police, said: "We stopped at the main nightspots in Tunbridge Wells on the Friday evening and spoke with door staff, managers and customers, and a lot of interest was shown in the vehicle."

For more about priorities where you live, visit www.kent.police.uk/yousaidwedid.

• To report non-urgent crime or anti-social behaviour 24-hours a day, call the Kent Police single non-emergency number on 01622 690690. In an emergency, dial 999.

Lick of paint is site's flight of fancy

LASHENDEN Air Warfare Museum is set to paint the town red after receiving a generous donation from a local store.

The museum at Headcorn – one of the longest established aviation museums in the country, running since 1970 – received a handout of paint from the Maidstone Dulux Decorator Centre.

The paint was used to decorate their recently acquired refreshment facilities – a second-hand Portakabin.

The museum's aim is to preserve the country's aviation and military heritage for the benefit of the public and to raise money for the RAF and its associated charities.

David Wild, spokesperson for museum, said: "We are very pleased with the renovation and redecoration of the cabin. It has made an excellent addition to the facilities of the museum."

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to www.kent.gov.uk/highways

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page 57

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Leolux Pastille chair	£3390	£1995
Pinetum Quercus oak dining table & 4 chairs	£2245	£1395
Pinetum Quercus oak coffee table	£465	£269
Hulsta Lilac lowboard & shelf system	£8129	£4995
Eris marble lamp table	£435	£299
Eris marble coffee table	£745	£399
Calligaris wicker bar stool	£156	£99
Leolux Cherubino occasional table	£1730	£1385
Ligne Roset Myriade round glass lamp table	£445	£295
Leolux Voici occasional table	£595	£479
Pinetum 3 drawer oak bedside chest	£490	£295
Pinetum ladies oak wardrobe	£1559	£995
Pinetum oak 3+4 drawer chest	£1845	£1195
Royal Oak dressing table + stool	£4045	£1995
Grange Indochine 3 drawer chest	£1581	£1185
Grange Directoire round drinks cabinet	£967	£495

	WAS	NOW
Grange Louis Phillippe 2 door wardrobe	£3280	£1639
Grange Directoire bedframe (4'6")	£2360	£1175
Relyon Canterbury kingsize headboard	£318	£149
Relyon Ambassador bedbase	£699	£299
Crozier cream painted bedside tables (pair)	£1390	£495
Hulsta Lilac gloss white bedside cabinets (pair)	£3814	£1495
Hulsta Tamis wardrobe set	£7006	£3995
Relyon Supreme Embrace single divan set	£3290	£1495
Hastens Classis Adjustable single bed	£3190	£1495
Hastens Naturally Adjustable single bed	£3000	£1495
Hastens Citation Adjustable single bed with massage	£8490	£5499
Titchmarsh & Goodwin oak child's chair	£559	£447
Skovby SM101 Maple multi-function table with 4 chairs	£2583	£1549
Grange Vintage wide console table	£1595	£1195
Grange Consulat cherry bookcase	£1375	£825
Titchmarsh & Goodwin oak dining table with 4 chairs and 2 carvers	£13,120	£7850
Ligne Roset Entre Vue armchairs (pair)	£1810	£799
Fitzroy grand sofa and accent chair	£3545	£1695
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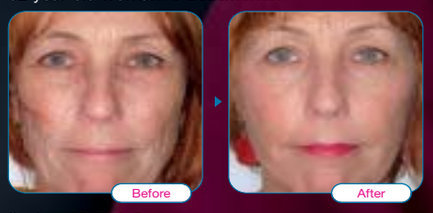
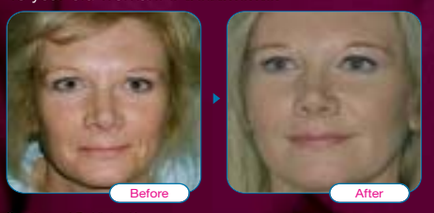


Courtesy of Dr David Evans

46 year-old woman. **3 treatments.**



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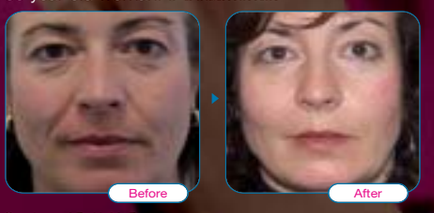
39 year-old woman. **3 treatments.**



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Charities feel the chill

By MIKE BENNETT
westkent@kosmedia.co.uk

CHARITY shops across west Kent already facing a double-whammy of an increase in cash-strapped consumers and a fall in donations have been facing the added challenge of just keeping their premises manned during the arctic weather.

While many general stores struggled to keep open, the charity sector was worst hit by horror road conditions and slippery pavements as a high proportion of those serving in the shops are OAP volunteers fearing injury on the ice en-route to cover their shifts.

But many showed remarkable determination that the efforts for their chosen cause must carry on regardless of whatever challenges are to be faced.

The Pembury-based Hospice in the Weald report that volunteers in their charity shops have been showing remarkable dedication by getting to their town and rural premises despite the weather, which appears not to have affected their takings too badly.

Trading manager Mark Harvey was full of praise for their efforts. He said: "We have a team of around 400 helpers who give their time to raising vital funds in our 15 shops and we just cannot thank them enough."

It was business as usual at the Age Concern charity shop in Sevenoaks from Monday this week after being forced to close when volunteers were unable to turn out during the two worst weather days at the end of last week.

FROZEN SHUT: Reliant on sales to fund their vital work, many charity shops were forced to close during the worst of the snowy weather

Regular supporter Sue Stephenson, who has backed the project for seven years, said: "It was just impossible for volunteers to get here during the height of the bad weather. Most are more mature than I am and it was completely understandable but we are open again now."

The Heart of Kent Hospice shop in Borough Green was another forced to close for one and a half days last week.

Judy Deswell said: "If they possibly can our volunteers always come in, but many live in the countryside and they were just beaten by the exceptional weather conditions."

Francine Denning, manager of Tonbridge Help the Aged charity shop in the High Street, picked the perfect time for a holiday in the sunny Canary Islands and missed the worst of the weather. Back behind the counter this week she discovered they had been unable to open three days last week after her volunteers had been advised not to attempt to attend.

She said: "Trade is quiet as expected after Christmas and the simple fact is, if volunteers struggle to get out so will shoppers and without them it is probably better to close."

At the British Heart Foundation in Tunbridge Wells they reduced opening hours but carried on regardless.

It was also business as usual with no closures at the Bridge Trust Homeless charity shop in Tonbridge. The charity, that has supported single homeless people across west Kent since 1991, relies on public support.

Manager Amanda Bellingham, said: "We cope and had no problems and in fact business was quite good last week."

The Oxfam shop in Stone Street, Cranbrook, remained open with manager Marilyn Fuller assisted by daughter Kayleigh, who was unable to reach West Kent College for her studies.

Mrs Fuller, said: "We only live a 10 minute walk away from the shop and despite the conditions we did have customers. My team of volunteers are aged up to 82 and were mostly unable to make it, which is understandable.

"The biggest problem is that we have received no donations of goods during the snow as people are not prepared to carry stuff in."

Community at heart of meeting

PEOPLE can raise issues of concern in their community at a meeting with police and council representatives next week.

A Partners and Community Together (PACT) meeting will take place at Dunton Green Pavilion on Wednesday, January 20, from 6.30pm.

Residents will be able to talk to community police officers and Sevenoaks District Council workers about issues or fears they would like addressed.

To attend contact Tracy Godden, Dunton Green parish clerk, on 01732 462966 or email clerk@dgpc.org.uk.

At the previous PACT meeting in Dunton Green in November, issues raised included facilities for young people, highway concerns and policing.

Since then, a Neighbourhood Watch scheme has been set up in Lennard Road, a group of young people have successfully bid for funding for a project to improve lighting at the recreation ground and there has been less graffiti.

Interior designer gives herself an external re-vamp

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

SHE'S swapped designing urban interiors on television for creating cages for the wild animals at a zoo in Wales, but Anna Ryder Richardson still feels the pressure to look younger.

The Changing Rooms designer, renowned on the DIY home makeover show for her bold colour choices, painting walls pink and scattering leopard print cushions, currently runs Manor House Wildlife Park in Pembrokeshire.

The 45-year-old has also given herself a bit of a makeover and was in Tunbridge Wells this week promoting a non-surgical cosmetic treatment, a subject she's passionate about.

"In the business I'm still kind of in it is very ageist, particularly for women, but I did not want botox fillers because you see photos of people with those pillow faces and I want to be able to frown," the mother-of-two said.

After the success of Changing Rooms in the late 90s and early noughties, Ryder Richardson went on to do a stint in the jungle on ITV's I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! in 2007 before starring in a documentary about opening her wildlife park, Chaos at the Zoo, on Channel 4 in 2008.

She said that she would like to see more older women on television.

"There is something that happens when you get over 40 and it is not just wrinkles. It is a sort of peace really," she said.

"I think you have got a lot to say as a woman, an older woman, we take on extraordinary tasks. I think in a day we do more than a lot of men and never moan about it, we just do it.

"We multitask amazingly well, bringing up children and working. We can choose to be at home, but if you do you are not sitting there with your feet up reading OK magazine."

Ryder Richardson lives at the zoo near Tenby with her young daughters, Bibi Belle and Dixie Dot, and husband, Colin MacDougall, and more than 100 animals.

She seems to be loving her new life in rural Wales, unfazed about the pipes having frozen and having to get water to the animals by hand. The cold snap has also seen the park's monkeys walk off their island enclosure because their moat froze. They're currently running around the park, but will return when they need feeding, she said.

"It's the best thing I've ever done and I wish I found it years ago," she said. "Animals and the countryside – it's the best therapy.

"I am still designing, but it's animal houses," she said. "I'm designing a house for a rhino at the moment, which is much more exciting than a two up two down on an estate in Birmingham... it's all the same skills."

But although she clearly doesn't mind getting her hands dirty, she also wants to look good. And whilst she believes we should be proud to get older, she does not mind giving nature a helping hand to stay looking younger.

Ryder Richardson said it has only been in the last couple of years that she has noticed her face looking tired and drawn.

In the end a friend recommended Sculptra, a collagen stimulator that promises to smooth wrinkles and restore facial volume to give a fuller, younger-looking complexion that can last up to two years.

It works by injecting a chemical called poly-L-lactic acid, which Ryder Richardson said hurt, but not as much as period pain or childbirth, into the face, which is similar to the lactic acid found naturally in muscles.

The treatment costs around £400 a go, but Ryder Richardson said: "When you think what we as poor women have to go through with the pressure of looking young. You are supposed to breed, be intelligent, run a business and have children clever enough to be astronauts.

"We spend so much money on our faces with creams and treatments. I thought actually this is money well spent."

• Ryder Richardson was at the Med-Spa Clinic in Post Office Square on Thursday. For more information call the clinic on 01892 535 577. More details about Sculptra can be found at www.sculptra.co.uk or call 0800 085 2046.

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Flight of mercy

Amid the snow clouds came help from the skies last week as KOS Media – publisher of this newspaper – took to a helicopter to help deliver vital supplies to the elderly. JULIE MADDOCKS climbed onboard and brought some warmth as the big freeze took hold. She tells her story of a remarkable mission as the county shivered

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

TAKE-OFF: Julie Maddocks with AV8 pilot Daniel Gilson before and during the flight to deliver vital supplies to the elderly cut off by the snow

SUPPLIES: Julie Maddocks delivers the goods to Age Concern

AGE Concern extended a special thank you to Julie, AV8 and everyone else involved, this week.

A spokesman told this newspaper: "We would like to extend our thanks to Julie who went over and above to help a vulnerable community. Her actions have made a real difference."

THE work of Age Concern is important all-year round, but perhaps even more so when inclement weather hits, as the staff and volunteers know only too well.

The group serving the Isle of Sheppey discovered just how difficult their normal tasks became in the recent heavy snow.

As their vans struggled in the sub zero temperatures and as the snow continued to fall on the island, visiting the elderly and delivering 'meals on wheels' became almost impossible.

And with many elderly residents dependent on the service for their meals, it was more vital than ever – as the temperatures continued to plunge – they got their meals and some basic supplies.

They had received some help, but were tirelessly fighting the elements and the roads attempting to maintain normal service.

With this in mind, KOS Media decided to help out. I contacted the charity and asked them if there was anything we could do.

They explained that simply reaching some people was proving a huge challenge.

Before we knew it, generous helicopter charter firm AV8, based in Rochester, had offered the use of a chopper.

Our mission was simple – to take essential supplies to the area struggling under the snow, and allow the Age Concern teams there to distribute the food and drink to those most in need.

The local supermarket shelves may have been empty of the much needed bread and milk, but I did find all I needed at a local garage - Parkfoot Service Station, West Malling – where they not only helped me load my car, but also offered staff discount to pay for the goods.

Flight plan

It was a refreshing experience to see everyone pulling together at times of such difficulty.

The team at AV8 soon put the flight plan in place and after gaining permission from Abbotts Pharmaceuticals at Queenborough, we headed for the helicopter and loaded the supplies on board.

As we took off, the view across Bluebell Hill and the Medway towns made it clear just how heavy the snow had fallen, and why so many motorists had been struggling in the conditions.

Our flight had been planned in between the wintery showers, and although it would have been nice to enjoy the winter wonderland on display below us, with more snow forecast, time was something we didn't want to waste.

We had arranged to meet Sheppey Age Concern manager, Elaine O'Brian and her team midway between their lunchtime deliveries in the area, and as we touched down at exactly 11.30am their van arrived on site.

We swiftly transferred what we had over to them, as Elaine told us how they had been struggling to get around the area.

"We were lucky to receive the offer of help from one local," she said, "he was kind enough to help us deliver meals in his 4x4 vehicle last week. But I think he helps everyone else too, so our volunteer driver John has been trying to get us round as much as we can.

"It's not just the roads which have caused the problem," she continued, "but it's the pavements too. So many people have found it just too dangerous to go out, and have run out of bread and milk, so this will be great."

As she told us just how hard their jobs had become in the past week, it certainly made me feel what we had done was very little. But thanks to the support of those who helped us to help others, it certainly restored my faith in human nature.

To see this clip search 'snow' @yourkenttv.co.uk

Catch Julie's mercy mission to deliver supplies on our free broadband website

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CHRIS BRITCHER

Takeover TV is coming your way

REMEMBER when television sets where just, well, television sets?

They sat there all fat and frumpy, a dial to tune in the channels (which you could count on the hand of a person with a history of finger amputations) and relayed images in glorious black and white.

Then there were some real leaps that went from futuristic to must-have. Colour, for example. And who can forget the advent of the remote control, the epitome of laziness?

The video was next, slipping under the box and providing a vital service.

More recently, the clunky old VHS made way for the sleek and shiny DVD, while digital TV meant poor quality pictures were a thing of the past.

And that, really, should have been that. The humble TV did all it needed to do.

But that's not how the consumer electronics industry wanted it. It loved the fact that everytime there was a major improvement – be it colour, the remote, digital TV – everyone felt obliged to go out and splash out on a new piece of expensive hardware.

So they got greedy. First there were bigger televisions – marketed at people with mansions, or simply not much in the way of class.

But most of us were okay with just a normal size screen which didn't dominate our front room at the expensive of natural light or our loved ones. Then TV sets all went on a crash diet and became thin little things. A handy change, but not really essential – but reason enough to buy a new TV .

And then, perhaps the finest example of the Emperor's New Clothes yet, we were all told we were not really watching TV unless we were doing so in crystal clear high definition.

Don't get me wrong, HD is a fine embellishment of what you watch, and I pump extra cash into Sky's pocket each month to watch the football a little bit clearer. But that's all it is. A little bit better. It's not like going from black and white to colour, for example.

What's more, people realise that. And they realise they don't really want to have to splash out loads of cash on something they don't really want. However much they're told they do. Same with Blu-ray HD players… nice if you've got them, but everyone really can live without them.

Yet, despite all of this recent bit of lesson-learning, the entertainment industry has simply dusted itself off and dug around for the Next Big Thing.

And it is, drum roll please, 3D TV. Oh dear. Oh dear, because 3D TV does not simply mean buying a pair of funny glasses. Oh no. It means going out and buying a new TV set. Yes, another one.

So if you've just splashed out on that swanky new HD screen you were told to go and buy, well, you may have jumped too soon.

Because 3D-ready television sets are now the big thing, or, at least, are about to be…experts this week declared them the saviour of the entertainment industry.

Which probably simply translates into the fact they are another way to fleece us all of our hard-earned cash.

Sky has a 3D service it intends to launch in the summer, wouldn't you just believe?

But surely 3D is going too far? Surely sitting in front of the TV should be a communal event, where you can chat and discuss things.

Not one where you all sit there with weird specs on, glued to what is coming out of that little box in the corner?

The one that used to be so humble. The one which seems more and more determined to take over our lives.

Chris Britcher is editor of this newspaper. Contact him with your news and views by emailing him direct: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

Hike in council tax depends on £7m asylum bill

No-snow teachers a joke

With reference to the headline about how an asylum row could put our council tax up.

If Kent County Council wanted to save money why are they paying teachers for NOT attending schools? If the teachers were not paid for absenteeism because of snow just how many would manage to get to school?

They no doubt said they could not get in yet again this week. Shall we start an 'adopt a teacher' and take them to school, as they are frightened of the snow? This then will enable our children to go to school and be educated.

Tip – if you live at the bottom of a hill, park at the top over night and try using those things that hang from your hips to walk.

Please do not mention health and safety. Just how many councils have been sued for kids slipping on ice?

Brian Elliott,
from Tunbridge Wells

Schools out for winter…

Can someone explain to me just why it seems impossible for schools to stay open at the slightest sign of snow?

If pupils can reach the school, then surely that is the safest place for them? But the second schools can't be bothered to open, then the whole local economy grinds to a halt. Parents can't go to work and everyone suffers.

Surely there must be better plans to put in place? I appreciate we've had an awful lot of snow recently, but the length of time schools have been shut seem unreasonable.

Ian Arthur,
by email

CHILLING STUFF

Hats off to the council

I think the local council has done a great job during the recent snow and ice.

The weather is the worst we have seen in years. I would suggest if your roads are bad, then we as a community should assist in keeping off the roads and help to keep paths clear for others.

No amount of salt will help in freezing and constant snow conditions.

Darren Lock,
from Tonbridge

New Doctor makes big impression on former companion

New Doc looks the part

I was delighted and encouraged by Louise Jameson's comments on Matt Smith, the new Doctor Who.

His opening performance was very good and I am looking forward to his first full series as the 11th Doctor.

Stephen Broome,
by email

Make your voice heard

WE WELCOME your comments and letters for publication.

Please send correspondence to: The Editor, KOS Media, 3 Cumberland Walk, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1UJ. Or email westkent@kosmedia.co.uk.

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances.

Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Missed last week's paper and want to know what sparked the debate?

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Kent on a sticky wicket

I'd like to add my voice to those complaining about Kent's ridiculous plans to stage a Twenty20 cricket match at Surrey's Oval ground this summer.

In all my years of supporting the club I have known it to make some very silly decisions – normally over loyal players – but perhaps this is its crowning glory. Holding a home match in London? Ridiculous.

And it makes me crosser that Tunbridge Wells – which sold out the last time such a game was staged – was overlooked.

What can be the possible justification?

T Young,
by email

I just want to express my displeasure about Kent's decision to play their 'home' against Surrey at The Oval. It'seems that a club which brands itself by the county, has turned its back on the very people it claims to represent.

Victor Smythe,
by email

VOTE NOW…

Each week we'll be giving you the opportunity to make your voice heard online on a major issue which is swelling the postbag.

This week, it is on Kent County Cricket Club's controversial decision to stage a Twenty20 match outside of the county this year.

Rather than playing at one of the grounds in Kent, it will be hosting a game at Surrey's the Oval in south London. Do you think it's right?

Simply visit www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk or www.yourtonbridge.co.uk or www.yourse-venoaks.co.uk and not only can you catch up on all the latest news, sport, read digital editions of our papers – for free – but vote too.

Just make your decision by answering the question on the home page. There will be a new question each week.

Letters continue on page 32

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BIRTHS

BODEN
Tyler born 26th December 2009 weighing 6lbs 13ozs. Son to Neil Boden and Samantha Bradshaw.

CADWALLADER-ALLEN
Maria and Rikki celebrate the birth of their son Jordan Lee Cadwallader-Allen on 22nd December 2009.

CAMPBELL
Connie Boyce and Jamie Campbell of Cliftonville Margate celebrate the birth of their son Taylor Campbell on 26th December 2009.

DAVIES
James Lee born on 26th December 2009, weighing 6lb 12oz. Son to Christopher Davies and Laura Boot in Ashford.

DEMBREY
Tiahna Rose born on 19th December 2009, weighing 7lbs 13oz. Daughter to Matthew Dembrey and Claire Budd.

FITTER
Wayne and Sarah welcome their beautiful baby daughter, Poppy Eva Fitter to the world. Born on 4th January 2010 at 10:10pm weighing 7lbs 15oz.

GAMBLE
Joe Thomas born on 2nd January 2010, weighing 9lb 5oz. Son to Neil and Claire Gamble in Maidstone.

GOLDSMITH
Joshua Riley born on 10th December 2009, weighing 6lbs 9oz. Son to Toby and Karen in Maidstone.

HARGROVE
Claire and William Hargrove celebrate the birth of their first child Matthew Leonard on 25th December 2009, a much treasured Grandson for Irene, Sue and Rodney.

HURD
Jason and Kirsty of Dover celebrate the birth of their son Finlay Robin on 29th December 2009.

LAWRENCE
Katie Evie born on 31st December 2009, weighing 8lbs 9oz. Daughter to Simon and Paula Lawrence.

LEE
Lace and Simon celebrate the birth of their daughter Violet Elsie Lee on 9th December 2009.

LOVETT
Connie, born on 5th January 2010 weighing 8lb 10oz daughter to Nicola Roberts and Andy Lovett, and sister for Edie from Dymchurch.

MARVIN COLE
Anneliese Hay and Richard Cole would like to announce the birth of their beautiful son and brother to Bethanie.

PALMER
Russell and Julie of Barming celebrate the birth of their daughter Neave Julie Palmer, born on 30th December 2009.

PARSONS
Chris and Jo are delighted to announce the birth of their son Max Oscar born on 17th December 2009 at Darent Valley Hospital weighing 8lb 11oz. A baby brother for Oliver xx.

PASCALL
Julie and James Pascall of Dover celebrate the birth of their daughter "Jessica Holly Pascall" on 23rd December 2009.

PRIOR
Rosie Sarah Prior, born 26th December 2009 to parents Laura and Doug weighing 7lbs 2ozs.

SHEPHERD
Joseph Terry born 25th December 2009 weighing 8lbs 2oz. Precious son to Terry and Emily. Brother to Ashley.

DEATHS

ALLICK
June Allick loving mother and wife passed away peacefully on 9th January 2010. Funeral service to be held at Vinters Park Crematorium at 12.30 on 29th January. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Breast Cancer Care.

ANDERSON
Patricia, wife of Mick, mother of Peter and Michelle, passed away peacefully on 7th January 2010 at The Heart of Kent Hospice after a long illness.

ANDERSON
Jean Anderson of Ramsgate passed away on 5th January 2010, beloved mother of Tony, Dierdre, Kevin, Maureen and Clare. She will be sadly missed by family and friends. Any enquiries to H R Palmer of Ramsgate.

BECKETT
It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Paul Beckett on 5th January 2010. Beloved husband of Pamela and father of Ryan and Ben. All enquiries and donations to The Pilgrims Hospice via Hogben and Partis of Faversham .

BROWN
Doris Brown of West Hougham passed away on 4th January 2010. Funeral at Barham on Wednesday 20th January at 2:40pm. Enquiries to Farriers Funeral Directors of Dover.

COLLINS
Owen Collins formerly of Staplehurst. Dearly beloved husband of the late Irene and much loved father of Graham, Carole and Peter. Passed away 7th January 2010 Aged 84 years. One of lifes true gentlemen. Will be sadly missed by all whose lives he touched. Funeral Service at All Saints Church Staplehurst Friday 29th January 2010 at 2.00pm. Enquiries and charity donations to - Doves Funerals, Maxted House, High Street Staplehurst TN12 0AH Tel 01580 892125.

MEEHAN
Terry Meehan, former landlord of the Kent Tavern, Herne Bay and the Crown and Sceptre, Acol died peacefully on Wednesday, 6 January. Funeral to be held on Monday, 18 January at 11am at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Herne Bay. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Macular Disease Society c/o A Welch and Sons, 94 Station Road, Herne Bay, Kent.

WELCH
In loving memory of Keith Anthony Welch aged 68 years. Died peacefully in Kent and Canterbury Hospital surrounded by his wife Celia, son Charles and daughter Lorraine. Funeral Service at St Thomas Church Canterbury at noon on 26th January followed by cremation at Barham. Friends and family are welcomed to join the Family to celebrate Keiths life at the Chaucer Hotel. Celia and her family would like to thank the staff at the CDU, Mount Ward, and Elliot House Herne Bay for their kindness and care. All enquiries to Welch and Son Burgate Canterbury.

Letters continued from page 31

We need real change

Brokenhagen – this is how Friends of The Earth Have described last month's failed Climate Change Summit. Copenhagen was the time and place for a strong climate change treaty agreement, instead all we got was a worthless vote to "note" a political agrrement.

This year the world's richest countries especially the US and China need to show real leadership and turn this weak aggrement into a legally binding treaty. At Copenhagen rich countries showed low ambition and lower tactics, big developing countries have put forward bold and fair proposals which have been sidelined by the rich countries.

The weak agreement will need to be radically altered to set the world on a pathway to avoid runaway climate change. This year's summits in Germany and Mexico are the places where short term interests must be set aside and a legally-binding treaty agreed.

Stuart Cox,
Group Co-ordinator, East Kent FOE

They don't listen to us

I may have been mistaken but I believe David Cameron promised to repeal the European human rights laws if the Conservatives came into power so that we could get rid of all the foreign criminals swamping our country

That is what I believed and I am pretty sure I heard him say that, amongst other things he has backtracked on. Now, according to a reliable source, he is going to do no such thing.

They are not going to renounce the European Convention on Human Rights or the European Court, so we will still be stuck with the mess we have now.

It would be wonderful if we could come up with an honest party to vote for, as none of the main three is willing to listen to what the people want. What a pathetic crowd they all are in ignoring 60 million people with the excuse that they know best. You only have to look at the state of the country to see if that is true.

If Cameron was honest and listened to what the people want, his rating would be through the roof but, just like Brown, he doesn't have the guts. I can't see an election solving the problems we have so I will be giving it a miss or voting for UKIP.

RE Tucker
Sheerness

It's a new religion

Thanks goodness for all the experts on these page, in the new religion of global warming.

They can even forecast the rise in sea levels to the nearest inch, which is surprising. Because if you place a number of ice cubes in a tumbler, then fill it virtually to the brim, you'll find when the ice cubes have melted, the level will be the same as ice is expanded water.

We can all be experts now, if the weather's wetter, dryer, colder, or warmer than usual, this all signifies global warming.

But never mind, we have a benevolent government that will use increasing green taxes to repair the damage done by the destruction of the rainforests and the pollution by countries like China and India to produce our cheap goods. All we have to do is reduce use of plastic bags, turn off our TV and not use cars.

Obviously the world population climbing to seven billion has nothing to do with our planet's inability to keep up and the fact the whole of the solar system is heating up must be our fault and should be taxable.

Phil Granger
West Malling

MP's given up on us

South Thanet's sitting Labour MP must have thrown in the towel. Only an MP resigned to departure would fail to seek to defend Thanet's maritime safety cover.

Of course my colleagues Laura Sandys and Julian Brazier are right to raise the issue of the location of the fixed-wing reconnaisance aircraft – just as Jonathan Aitken and I sought to resist the transfer of the search and rescue helicopters from Manston to RAF Wattisham. At that time it was another chief coastguard who felt the relocation of a service would not diminish safety at sea.

To date, no lives have been lost as a result of the transfer, but over the Christmas period a yacht in trouble was serviced, in addition to the Margate lifeboat, by an aircraft from Belgium rather than one from Britain. I still fear that a day may come when 'just in time' proves to be 'just too late'.

The Straits of Dover are the busiest sealane in the world. Air cover needs to be enhanced, not diminished and I share the view expressed by Laura Sandys and by Julian Brazier to the effect that the removal of the fixed-wing aircraft from Manston to Coventry represents a potential diminution of the facility.

South Thanet's Labour MP additionally accuses Laura Sandys of "confusion" and electioneering over transport policies. This, of course, is the same MP who, prior to the 2002 general election, sought to grab a headline by announcing that a fast rail service, provided by a company called Netrail, would be running between Ramsgate and London, with his assistance, by 2007. We need take no lessons from an operator of ghost trains.

Roger Gale, MP
North Thanet

Don't waste their lives

The prospect of a happy New Year seems more elusive than ever for those whose lives and futures have been blighted by rising youth unemployment.

More than 43,000 18 to 24-year-olds were claiming benefits across the South East at the end of last year at a cost of more than £2.2 million a week. This figure has risen by 60 per cent in just a year, as younger and less experienced members of our workforce are hit.

Unsurprisingly, those out of work are significantly less happy with their health, friendships and family life. Our alarming new report, The Prince's Trust YouGov Youth Index, shows unemployed young people are twice as likely to feel down or depressed and many feel ashamed, isolated and unloved.

If trends follow those of previous recessions, we fear these youngsters will become members of a lost generation and face a continued lack of confidence and low self-esteem. The long term regional cost of failing to give young people a helping hand at a time when many of them need it most must be counted in wasted human potential as well as in monetary terms.

It is organisations like The Prince's Trust, working with local councils and businesses, that are key to helping young people into jobs. Together, we can build on and surpass last year's achievements of changing 3,000 young lives across the region.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness, South East Regional Director, The Prince's Trust

Charity needs support

I am asking your readers to urgently visit their local Age Concern and Help the Aged charity shops and give generously to stop them losing crucial funds because of the recent cold snap.

The charity relies on generous donations from the public to stock their shops and fund their vital work, but due to bad weather charity collection vans have been unable to pick up donations. In addition, shops have had to shut and the ones that do open have seen much reduced business and a decrease in people bringing in goods.

Age Concern and Help the Aged estimates that over the last two weeks the charity has lost around £500,000 and with the weather worsening across much of the country that number could get higher.

The money raised from shops is used to improve the lives of older people in many ways, from running lunch clubs and offering benefits advice to lobbying Government.

Fiona Phillips
Journalist, and Age Concern and Help the Aged Ambassador

Volunteering their help

The snow affecting the country has had a massive impact.

Bad weather has hit everywhere from Cornwall to the north of Scotland, placing huge demands on the emergency services.

We should all be incredibly proud of the way these vital services have continued to operate, getting help to those most in need in the face of extreme and dangerous conditions.

The British Red Cross and other voluntary organisations have also had a role to play in ensuring these lifelines have continued.

With emergency services stretched right across Britain, our volunteers, equipped with four-wheel-drive Land Rovers, have come into their own.

Working tirelessly to support the emergency services and ensure help gets through to those in need, their courage and dedication should be saluted.

Once again they have shown – as they have time and again – that dedicated, trained volunteers can play a vital role in responding to emergencies.

In the UK, the Red Cross has tens of thousands of volunteers skilled in fields as diverse as first aid, emotional support and the co-ordination of emergency support; skills which make people and their communities more resilient against the effects of harsh weather.

Particularly in light of current pressures on public spending, we urge that this government, and future governments, commit themselves to continuing to harness and support voluntary organisations to ensure the help we provide can continue.

Sir Nick Young
Chief Executive
British Red Cross

Healthy tips for lunches

Many readers may have been shocked at the news that only one per cent of primary schoolchildren's packed lunches meet the nutritional standards set for school meals in England.

But there is no reason why crisps, sweets and sugary drinks should dominate over healthier fruit and veg – especially with help from one of the UK's leading health charities, the Vegetarian & Vegan Foundation (VVF).

At www.veggiekids.org.uk there are loads of great ideas, practical tips and information about how to make a lunchbox healthy and tasty – showing it's easy to get the balance right by including a wide range of plant-based foods. Try falafel in baby pitta pockets, hummus dip with vegetable sticks, and unsalted nuts and seeds for a nutritional boost in the middle of the day that will help your child concentrate and work hard at school.

For details about how to provide your child with a balanced and nutritious lunchbox, visit the website, email info@vegetarian.org.uk, write to VVF at Top Suite, 8 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QH, or call 0117 970 5190 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm).

Helen Rossiter
Vegetarian & Vegan Foundation Campaigns

MONEY MATTERS

New dawn for the economy

Inside your pull-out supplement

- Be prepared for VAT changes
- Focus on mergers and acquisitions
- Claim your share of the wealth
- Cut back on your household spending
- Consider your children's future
- Save money with a new car
- Taxing issues for drivers
- Simple steps put you on the greener road
- Shattering myths could save you pounds
- Does scrappage have a future?

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VAT return dread? Click on to a new system

VAT-registered businesses in Kent are being urged to get ready for major changes to VAT return filing and payment coming in April.

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has sent a leaflet to all 1.9 millionVAT-registered businesses to alert them to the fact that, from April 1, 2010, those with an annual turnover of £100,000 or more, excluding VAT, will have to file their VAT returns online and pay their VAT electronically.

Under the changes, businesses registering for VAT on or after April 1 will also have to file their return online and pay electronically, whatever their turnover.

Every year, around 5,200 businesses register for VAT in Kent.

The average number of businesses registering for VAT each year by area is:

- **Medway 619**
- **Ashford 481**
- **Canterbury 397**
- **Dartford 299**
- **Dover 247**
- **Gravesham 258**
- **Maidstone 545**
- **Sevenoaks 508**
- **Shepway 286**
- **Swale 377**
- **Thanet 313**
- **Tonbridge and Malling 401**
- **Tunbridge Wells 454**

HMRC told all VAT-registered businesses in the county to take notice of the changes, as well as local firms who are planning to register for VAT in the coming months.

To file a VAT return online, businesses new to HMRC's online services need to register for the VAT Online service by visiting www.online.hmrc.gov.uk, clicking 'register' under the 'new user' section and then following the instructions.

Current HMRC online service users can add VAT Online to their portfolio in the 'Services you can add' section of 'Your HMRC services'.

HMRC's Stephen Banyard said: "Filing your VAT return online has a number of benefits: it's secure, convenient, does arithmetical checks and calculations for you, and provides you with an immediate online acknowledgement that your online return has been safely received by us.

"So, if your turnover is £100,000 or more, and you're not already filing your VAT return online, sign-up now for VAT online services – that way, you'll avoid a last-minute rush, and be able to enjoy the benefits of online filing sooner rather than later."

HMRC will also be sending formal letters in February to all existing businesses affected by the new online filing and electronic payment requirements, confirming that in future they must file online and pay electronically.

And, from April 1, a letter explaining the requirement to file online will be included in all registration packs issued to newly registering VAT businesses.

Both letters will be accompanied by a guide on registering for VAT Online.

Further help and advice, including an online demonstrator and a step-by-step guide to filing online, is available on HMRC's website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat, or by calling its VAT helpline on 0845 010 9000 between 8am and 8pm, Monday to Friday.

GO ONLINE: A new simpler system to file your tax return has been set up by HMRC online

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Mergers and acquisitions:

ISSUES FOR BUYERS

BUYING a business involves many risks. If a buyer is not careful, he may end up paying more than just the agreed purchase price. However, with careful planning and proper advice, these risks can be reduced.

The most important factor is to know what you are buying. This may seem an obvious point, but if you are buying shares in a company, you are buying all assets and liabilities of that company, whether known or unknown, actual or contingent.

Due diligence is vital, therefore. This will involve scrutinising the target's financial and tax records, cash-flows and budgets, business and employment contracts, properties and other assets.

The price will probably be agreed with the seller before due diligence takes place, but a buyer must not be afraid to renegotiate if due diligence throws up issues or liabilities which were not expected.

The price payable for the business can be structured in many ways. It is rare nowadays for a buyer and seller to agree a fixed price, all of which is payable on the date of the acquisition. The price can be payable in instalments and occasionally the value of the instalments are calculated by reference to the profits or turnover of the business during the intervening period (known as an earn-out). It is also quite common for the price to be adjusted by reference to accounts of the business which are prepared as at the date of the acquisition, so the buyer is paying for the assets and liabilities on the balance sheet at that date.

If the target business is a company, the buyer may choose to buy the shares or the assets from the company. Buying shares is generally more risky for a buyer. It means buying the company 'lock, stock and barrel' and inheriting any skeletons in the company's cupboard. It is actually a much simpler structure and likely to be favoured by sellers. Buying assets may be more tax-efficient for the buyer and it allows the buyer to cherry-pick the specific assets it wants, but it will involve the complexities of transferring individual assets and having to renew or assign contracts with customers and suppliers.

The principle method for a buyer to protect itself against unknown liabilities post-acquisition is to obtain warranties from the seller.

Warranties are statements of fact relating to the business which are relied on by the buyer as being true. If a warranty subsequently turns out to be untrue, the buyer will be able to claim damages for breach of warranty. The warranties often take up a significant proportion of the purchase contract and a lot of time is often spent negotiating their terms and application.

Compensation

The warranties serve two purposes: Firstly, they force the seller to disclose any information it knows about a warranty which is untrue, so the buyer has a full picture of what it is buying. Secondly, the warranties serve as a price adjustment mechanism by enabling the buyer to claim compensation for damages, losses or liabilities arising from a warranty being untrue, effectively reducing the price of the business.

Employees are often key to a business, but sometimes a buyer will not want or need all of the seller's employees. However, a buyer will inherit responsibility for all of the seller's employees, so careful consideration is necessary before any redundancy decisions are made, either by the buyer or the seller.

The acquisition of a business should be a stepping stone for greater success and profits for a buyer. Buyers must ensure that the terms of the acquisition fully protect them against it being an expensive mistake.

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what you will need to know...

DONE DEAL: Make sure you are aware of the risks of buying and selling a business before a deal goes ahead

ISSUES FOR SELLERS

A BUSINESS owner is likely to have shed blood, sweat and tears in making their business as successful as possible. Unless it is a family business and the next generation is ready to pick up the reins, these efforts will hopefully culminate in selling the business or, for the more ambitious, floating it on a stock exchange.

In light of this almost inevitable endgame, it is surprising how few business owners are prepared for the issues and procedures which will be relevant when the time for exit arrives. Being underprepared may result in receiving less than full value for the business.

Business owners must plan for their exit well in advance. Some of the most important things to ensure are also the most obvious, but that does not always mean they are observed.

The business structure must be established in a way which makes the sale as straightforward as possible. For example, if the business is operated through a company, are there any divisions, properties or assets which need to be extracted from the company before a sale?

All corporate and commercial documents relating to the business must be complete and up to date. They will be scrutinised during a buyer's due diligence, so do not give the buyer any excuse to delay or renegotiate the terms of the sale.

Key employees of the business should be signed up to employment contracts which comply with current employment legislation and contain enforceable restrictive covenants. The employees may be a valuable ingredient in the business, so a buyer will want to be satisfied that they are tied, as well as they can be, to the business.

If the business relies on unique intellectual property rights, it is imperative to ensure that these rights are protected as much as possible, whether by way of patent, trade mark, registered design rights, copyright or even simple confidentiality provisions.

Careful tax planning will also be key. The sale of shares in a company will almost certainly result in a lower tax bill for shareholders compared to the company selling its business and assets. This is because the company will have to pay corporation tax on its gains before the balance of proceeds can be distributed to its shareholders. However, there are exceptions to this rule, so always review the position early with a tax advisor.

When approaching potential buyers, it is important that sellers do not disclose too much information without first procuring signed confidentiality undertakings from the recipients of any information, to protect the business' trade secrets, customer and employee lists, pricing policies and other sensitive information.

Debenture

If a buyer makes an offer which includes an element of the purchase price being payable after the date of sale (possibly on an earn-out basis), the seller should consider what protection they require.

For example, should the buyer provide some form of security over the deferred element, such as a bank guarantee or debenture? If the deferred amount is dependant on future turnover or profits of the business, should there be provisions requiring the business to be conducted in the same manner as it was conducted before the sale? Careful consideration should also be given to the tax implications of any deferred element of the purchase price because, without careful planning, it is possible that tax will be payable on the full value of the purchase price, even if only some of it is paid on the date of sale.

There are many additional issues which need to be considered by sellers before they embark on the exit process, but hopefully this articles highlights a handful of the most significant factors.

• ***Nicholas Gabay, Partner Corporate & Commercial Department, Thomson Snell & Passmore.***

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

A share of the wealth

By **JEREMY GATES**

AS A new year begins, the search for shares and managed funds with 'hot' prospects will continue for small investors seeking to supplement their income.

In the Noughties, the game lost much of its sparkle. It's been a grim time for shares, especially those in banks once seen as solid and reliable, such as Lloyds TSB, Royal Bank of Scotland and HBOS. In 30 months of financial mayhem, income and capital gains from shares have plunged.

Well-regarded blue chips sank too, although many bounced back in the 54 per cent surge by London's FTSE 100 index since March.

The turmoil may not yet be over. Savers nearing retirement may be reluctant to touch equities at all, in case they sink to the lows that London prices hit in early 2009.

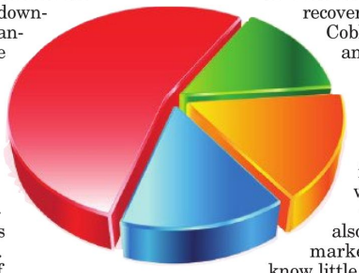
Despite the doom and gloom, however, small investors still hold £162 billion of shares, says Capita Registrars.

And with minimal returns from rival investments such as property and savings accounts, people trying to build a lump sum to allow earlier retirement will want some money in shares – or funds that hold mostly stocks.

Caution is the watchword with most pundits. Nobody knows how share prices will respond when the Government's policy of quantitative easing is eventually switched off.

Jonathan Jackson, head of equities at broker Killik & Co, has some FTSE 100 giants in his Top Ten for 2010, including GlaxoSmithKline, BG Group, Barclays, hedge-fund manager Man Group and FT owner Pearson. Most of these pay good dividends, around five per cent, even if capital growth may be limited.

Killik's high-yielding portfolio, with firms from the FTSE 100, Mid 250 and Small Cap, pays an average dividend of 5.7 per cent, with limited downside risk short of financial armageddon. He predicts the FTSE 100 will be at 5,850 by the end of 2010, about eight per cent up on the current level of 5,400.



VALUES: Investors need to choose between the safe bet and the big surge

Richard Hunter at discount broker Hargreaves Lansdown is slightly more hopeful. He sees the Bank of England base rate at 1.5 per cent by December, and the FTSE 100 around 6,000 in 12 months' time.

He plumps for BP (paying 5.5 per cent), Tesco, Home Retail (owner of Argos/Homebase) and one of the pharmaceutical giants, either GlaxoSmithKline or AstraZeneca.

Among tiddlers, he likes Davis Service Group, a £700 million company trading as Sunlight in the UK and Ireland to provide uniforms and workwear to a range of companies.

Globally, Hunter thinks 2010 could be the year when the economic might of China is widely recognised.

Tim Steer at the Artemis UK Growth Fund is backing firms focused on change – among them oil minnow Sterling Energy, listed on London's junior AIM market. He also likes Ricardo, focused on improving fuel efficiency for the automotive sector.

Peter Saacke, fund manager at Artemis Global Growth, thinks 2010 will deliver higher income from shares as dividends recover. His core holdings include Cobham, Northumbrian Water and Imperial Tobacco.

In an atmosphere of huge uncertainty, there are attractions in making monthly payments into managed funds: if share prices, investors buy more shares with the same subscription.

Choosing a specialist fund is also an easy way into global markets where most investors know little about specific shares.

Emerging markets boomed in 2009, notably the BRIC chain of Brazil, Russia, India and China. Neptune's Russia & Greater Russia, launched five years ago and heavily invested in oil, mining and gas companies, was a top-performing fund in 2009, soaring by 107 per cent. Alliance RCM BRIC Stars had another great year with an 80 per cent surge.

Can they keep it up? As the developing world continues to grow, demand for raw materials grows too – which might be a case for backing JP Morgan Natural Resources, up by more than 600 per cent in the past decade.

Virgin Money's Investor Intentions Index says emerging markets pushed UK shares to second place in advice given by financial advisors during 2009, but some doubt this surge can be maintained. In any case, investors bruised by 2007-09 might choose safe funds for 2010, rather than those set to soar.

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Twelve ways

BY **JEREMY GATES**

MANY families who cut back on spending in 2009 on the assumption of recovery in 2010 may already be having a rethink, and are looking for fresh ways to prune the budget after warnings another 250,000 jobs could go in the new year.

Unemployment could hit three million by mid-summer, says the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD) – partly because of rising inflation and the rise in VAT. Counting the pennies this year could be more important than last.

"People should review their finances on a regular basis and the turn of the year is a great trigger to do just that," said Clare Francis at moneysupermarket.com.

"For those suffering an extra financial hangover from the festive period, recovery will be quicker in 2010 if significant savings are made."

Ms Francis estimates an average household could save £4,000 a year, simply by getting the cheapest deals in those areas of spending few of us can avoid, like mortgage repayments and energy bills.

Here are a dozen spending checks which any household can make.

1. Mortgages – use low interest rates to overpay your mortgage, while 'interest only' borrowers who switch to capital repayment terms with their current lender may be surprised by savings in the long-term.

Moneysupermarket.com estimates that somebody paying an extra £50 per month on a capital repayment could save £40,000 over the 300-month life of a mortgage.

Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk points out that switching lenders might not be worth it for those with small loans, because of the hefty fees incurred. Above £70,000, though, it might be worth looking at cheaper fixes, including a Leeds BS five-year fix at 4.75 per cent or Mansfield BS's two-year fix at 3.59 per cent.

Don't linger on a Standard Variable Rate (SVR) loan because rates are likely to rise this year. Someone with a £150,000, two-year mortgage at Coventry BS fixed at 3.5 per cent would save £2,278 against the average SVR rate.

2. Get the cheapest loan – Nationwide BS thinks many consumers with debts spread across credit and store cards, overdrafts and loans could save by consolidating the debts into its new personal loans costing a typical 7.6 per cent APR on £7,500-14,999 for up to five years, the rate being fixed for the full term of the loan.

This undercuts the 7.9 per cent offer on £7,500-15,000 advances, with Nectar points, unveiled by Sainsbury's Finance.

3. Credit cards – if you can get your card debts accepted for a zero per cent balance transfer deal, there's a case for cutting the card up to ensure you don't make new purchases, possibly charged at 16 per cent.

4. Be a careful shopper – write down what you need before entering the supermarket, and you can easily save £20 per week, says Andrew Hagger at Moneynet.co.uk. That's worth £1,000 a year, which you can use to pay off debts elsewhere.

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to trim your budget

5. Home and motor insurance – comparison site Gocompare.com reckons 21 million drivers are missing out on cheaper cover. Also, only 19 per cent of consumers switched their home insurer in the last year.

Gocompare.com says its customers could save an average £211 by comparing policies from more than 120 insurers and brokers.

A new deal from Direct Line offers 52 days of free cover on car insurance, while home insurance policies offer 12 months' cover for the price of nine, with a free home-emergency policy to cover call-outs, parts and labour on some domestic crises.

6. Claim all available benefits – if family income is less than £40,000 and both partners work 16 hours a week plus, you're eligible for childcare tax credits worth hundreds of pounds, assuming the carer is registered with Ofsted.

7. Current Account – A&L, part of Santander Group, re-introduces its £100 cashback for those switching to its Premier Current Account from January 11. Other perks include a fee-free agreed overdraft for 12 months, free European travel insurance and 0.5 per cent credit interest, on condition at least £500 is paid in each month.

8. Maximise savings rates – the big institutions still need your cash, with Abbey and A&L kick-starting the new year with a range of fixed-rate bonds paying up to 4.1 per cent gross/AER on minimum £1 deposits invested for one year upwards.

9. Start saving for next Christmas – Yorkshire BS is launching a 2010 Christmas saver account, branch-based and postal, paying a fixed rate of 3.5 per cent gross on a minimum £10 deposit. The account will take a maximum £1,200.

Savers prepared to set aside £250 per month, can get five per cent from the Norwich & Peterboro' BS Family Regular Saver.

10. Energy bills – obvious ways to save, said Will Marples at uSwitch.com, include paying by direct debit, switching to dual fuel, and signing up to an online plan which are about £300 a year cheaper than standard energy plans.

11. TV, telephone and internet – Moneysupermarket.com reckons bundling your TV, landline and broadband connections can save about £130 a year, compared with the cost of standalone products.

For a standalone line rental deal, www.Homephonechoices.co.uk's Primus Home Phone Saver package offers free evening and weekend calls to UK landlines for £9.15 line rental per month.

12. Travel – If you know when you want to go, train travel needn't cost the earth. Advance tickets are available up to 12 weeks in advance, and are claimed to be the cheapest ticket option.

While bus passes are free for pensioners, railcards can lop a third from off-peak rail fares. Sign up for alerts from www.thetrainline.com to save an average 43 per cent on the price of 'turn up and go' tickets.

Many travel firms could go bust in 2010, putting your money at risk. The British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) recommends policies by Tokio Marine Europe, but Direct Line and AA Travel Insurance claim to offer protection against corporate failures.

• ***Unbiased.co.uk, which promotes the benefits of independent financial advice, has a new financial calendar to help consumers plan their payments and spending. It can be downloaded free at www.unbiased .co.uk/financial-tools/financial-calendar.***

Essential guide to where you can save

- KOS Media is offering a 50 per cent saving on the Remington Titanium microscreen3 shaver
- Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all servicing
- FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering a half-price MOT with full service
- KOS Media is offering an Inovalley digital (freeview) 7in LCD TV, integrated digital photo frame and radio alarm clock only £119.99 (inc p&p), RRP £149.99
- Northgate Alfa Motors in Canterbury is offering fixed-price servicing for cars three years plus, eg silver care, £139
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free glass of wine with your Sunday lunch throughout Jan and Feb in the Verve Grill
- KOS Media is offering six breathable, moth-resistant protective clothes covers from just £12.99 for a set of six
- Mayfair Drives in Rainham is offering up to 50 per cent off flooring
- KOS Media is offering a saving of £80 on the Pulsar Kinetic watch
- Ashford Orbital Motors in Ashford is offering MOTs for £34.15
- KOS Media is offering the Seiko ER9000 Oxford Reference Library for only £169.99
- G Flooring in Margate is offering 10 per cent off all remnants

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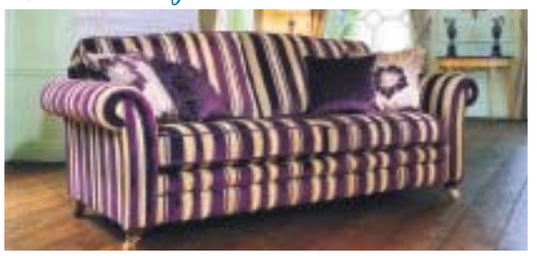

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FAMILY MATTERS: Parents must think carefully about how to provide for their children

Do you trust the children?

By **JEREMY PASSMORE**
Thomson Snell & Passmore

MANY people want to provide funds for their children and grandchildren, to help with all the varied calls for money they will experience during their younger years and into adulthood.

It is not always easy to know how best to structure any such provision. One wants to ensure that children have an appropriate degree of access to the monies, and that the structure serves to minimise the impact of taxes.

1. Bare Trusts – are arrangements where trustees are acting really only as nominees, with the beneficiaries having beneficial ownership of the monies.

Where funds are provided by grandparents, grandchildren can use their personal allowances for income tax and annual exemptions for CGT, which is likely to be better than if the monies were held by the parents or grandparents. If the funds are provided by parents, however, income tax is assessed on them until the children reach 18.

A disadvantage is at 18 the children can call for the money which belongs to them; because it might be spent unwisely does perhaps mean such trusts should not be over funded, to leave an 18 year old with too much to spend. While they are under 18, the monies can be used freely for their benefit, including paying school fees.

2. Discretionary Trusts – are used when the amount is more than would be appropriate for the children to take at 18; or where it is intended that the funds should be held to give benefit to the beneficiaries until a greater age such as 25; or where one wants to have the ability to favour some beneficiaries over others. Such trusts are very flexible and can target the benefit at the appropriate time.

A disadvantage is the trustees will need to manage the funds and produce a separate tax return; with a bare trust the income is simply treated as belonging to the child and only a tax repayment claim will be needed. Furthermore, income tax rates for trustees are now high, with a 50 per cent rate from April.

The effect of this is mitigated if the income is paid out to beneficiaries who are non or lower rate tax payers. Accordingly it would normally be best to fund the trust at the sort of level where income being generated can safely be paid out, to avoid the trustees retaining income and suffering tax at 50 per cent.

Once again there is a difference if the funds are provided by a parent, with the tax assessed on the parent if the income is distributed; but if the income is accumulated, then it will be taxed at 50 per cent! So if parents want to get funds out of their estates, perhaps for IHT reasons, it would be wise not to invest to produce a high level of income while the children are under age, although once they reach 18 the rules change and income paid out to the children is taxed on them and not their parent.

3. Provision by will – grandparents can bypass their children and set up trusts for grandchildren in their wills. The parents will probably benefit indirectly from the funds available and the trust can be drafted so the children's own personal tax position can be taken advantage of.

This will not happen if the fund is below the nil rate band threshold, currently £325,000. If someone wants to set up a larger fund, then there are ways to avoid any IHT charge by giving the children a right to income.

The circumstances and requirements of families differ greatly; one needs to think carefully about what one is trying to achieve and to structure gifts to achieve that in the most appropriate and tax effective way.

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Open a new car savings account

BY **STEVE LOADER**

THERE may be a glimmer of light at the end of the recessionary tunnel, but is it too soon to think about a new car?

No. In fact, there was a strong argument for some of us to buy new wheels even in the worst depths of the downturn and those circumstances continue to prevail.

With savings accounts earning so little, you might make more by saving a huge wedge on a new car thanks to big discounts at the moment.

Fact is, there has been much hype about the Government-sponsored £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant scheme, but dealers have been knocking cash off cars for months – whether you have a 10-year-old 'scrapper' to trade in or not.

There are other deals that can be factored in too, such as zero or low rate finance.

And don't forget to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts on any add-ons you fancy.

Do your homework though to ensure you are not buying an unpopular engine or trim combination or, worse, a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago.

After all, you don't want to trade your old gas guzzler for another just as thirsty or likely to depreciate badly.

Buy wisely though and your new vehicle could save on fuel, insurance, road tax and even depreciation, though cars always devalue unless they achieve classic status.

You can also afford to congratulate yourself for ditching something less efficient in favour of a modern and more eco-friendly model.

On the other hand, review your proposed part-exchange; a knee-jerk disposal and the cost of replacement, could be daunting even when judged against its high running costs for the next three years and eventual disposal when the market is more settled.

Budget

Road tax favours downsizing – gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 a year road tax from April 1 next year – but this is still a small part of the motoring budget for most of us.

Many superminis currently sit in the lowest road tax band of £35 a year and though you might be tempted by new tax-exempt diesel eco models, just check the price against a standard version.

The eco supermini might save £105 road tax over three years, but how much will you pay upfront for it? A lot more and you might not think the driving experience worth paying extra for either.

Be aware too that from April 1, all cars emitting 130g/km or less will be zero-rated for tax in their first year on the road.

So, check out conventional equivalents of eco models and don't dismiss petrol power; the fuel is still cheaper and makes sense for lower mileage users, while emission and consumption levels are closing the gap on their heavier diesel equivalents.

TIME FOR A NEW ONE?: And how about one with a seven-year warranty like this Kia Ceed – all Kias now come with the same unique cover

Essential guide to where you can save

- Northgate Alfa Motors in Canterbury is offering fixed price servicing for cars three years plus gold care £169
- Robins and Day Motors in Rochester is offering MOT from £29.99. Service and MOT from £119.99
- Canterbury Hyundai Motors in Canterbury is offering MOTs while you wait for £29.95
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering 25 per cent off the joining fee for the leisure club
- Cliftonville Tile Centre in Thanet is offering free adhesive and grout on all orders over 15 metres
- Mayfair Drives in Rainham is offering up to 50 per cent off paving
- Rare Breeds Centre in Ashford has a child goes free with every paying adult. Offer on now
- Ashford Orbital Motors in Ashford is offering servicing from £99.95 inc VAT, all makes
- Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Motors in Tunbridge Wells is offering half price MOT with service
- Old Sawmills furniture store in Ashford has an oak computer desk and chair promotion – various sizes, styles and leather colours, plus free banker's lamp. Only £1,295

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CLASS: Alfa Romeo's dramatic MiTo supermini proves eco motoring need not be boring motoring

TAX EXEMPT: Vauxhall has announced an improved Vauxhall Corsa, badged with its ultra-green ecoFLEX sub-branding, that is tax exempt thanks to just 98g/km emissions

Pros and cons of road tax savings

BY **STEVE LOADER**

DON'T swap your current car just to save a few pounds on road tax.

On the other hand, Government efforts to tax 'gas guzzlers' off the road can further ease the burden on your motoring budget if you plan to downsize or go for a more fuel-efficient model.

Chancellor Alistair Darling eased the pressure a bit after an outcry induced by draconian rates due to be applied to larger cars... just as the recession clobbered the economy.

But Labour – and a Conservative government won't be any different due to existing agreements to clean up pollution – has said it will continue to drive down vehicle sizes and emissions by using tough VED (Vehicle Excise Duty) rates, based on CO2 emissions rather than fuel consumption and applying only to cars registered after March 1, 2001.

At present, you can escape paying anything if your car emits 100g/km or less and, from April 1, this benefit will apply to any car with a 130g/km or less rating, within one year of being registered. After that it will revert to £20-30 a year.

By the same token, anyone buying a serious CO2 emitter discharging 255g/km or more will be clobbered by a £950 charge in the first year and £435 thereafter when the new scale comes into effect – the current tax for cars in this band is £405.

Curiously, due to inconsistent emissions data on older cars, these are taxed simply at £120/year up to 1,549cc and then £185 if larger – something of a bargain for owners of older 'gas guzzlers' if they can bear higher fuel bills, opt for a £1,500-2,000 LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion or cover relatively few miles. The higher charge increases to £205 after April 1.

ROAD TAX BANDS

Band A (0-100g/km of CO2) – £0
Bands B and C (101-120g/km) – £35
Bands D and E (121-140g/km) – £120
Band F (141-150g/km) – £125
Band G (151-160g/km) – £150
Bands H and I (161-180g/km) – £175
Bands J and K (181-225g/km) – £215
Band L (226-255g/km) – £405
Band M (255g/km plus) – £405

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Smarter driving for better saving

BY **STEVE LOADER**

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones.

Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear – a moped or motorcycle might be a better option.

If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

• Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, Park and Ride bus schemes, or other public transport.

• Have your vehicle serviced regularly. Neglected engines waste at least 10 per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

• Check tyres – under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check pressures weekly.

• Obey speed limits to save and stay legal. Feather the throttle at cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

• Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

• Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

• Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

• Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

• Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn more fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

• Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

• For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at: http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.

ECO-FRIENDLY: Driving more economically can also add to the savings you make from purchasing eco-friendly models like the Skoda Octavia Estate Greenline (above) or Nissan's 'Swiss army knife' Qashqai (right) – the car that can be family a hatchback, people carrier, SUV and even 4x4 if you buy a flagship model

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Corsa 3-door SRi 1.4i 16v (100PS) manual: Urban – 40.4 (7.0), Extra-urban – 61.4 (4.6), Combined – 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 129g/km. Astra Sport Hatch Sport 1.4i 16v manual: Urban – 35.3 (8.0), Extra-urban – 56.5 (5.0), Combined – 46.3 (6.1). CO_2 emissions 146g/km.

Price shown includes £2000 Vauxhall Scrappage Allowance which is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Vauxhall Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to cars registered on or before 29.02.00 (vans on or before 28.02.02) when traded in against a new car subject to conditions and whilst Government funding applies. Models illustrated are Corsa 3-dr SRi 1.4i 16v (100PS) at £14,484 Man. Rec. OTR (offer price £9995 OTR) and Astra Sport Hatch Sport 1.4i 16v at £16,339 Man. Rec. OTR (offer price £11695* OTR). On-the-road (OTR) prices include number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, DVLA new vehicle first registration fee of £55 and VAT at 17.5%. Excludes fuel and insurance. Offers are available to private individuals, and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 01.01.10 and 28.02.10, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. Offers are available on selected Retailer stocks only, cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer, unless stated otherwise, and are available at participating Retailers only. Excludes Isle of Man and Channel Islands.

BY **STEVE LOADER**

Motoring myths shattered – more savings pocketed

FUEL prices continue to be volatile – no help to drivers as Britain tries to claw its way out of recession.

The UK's biggest supplier of company cars reckons this also comes on top of motorists being suckered by costly motoring myths.

Lex Autolease associate director Chris Chandler said: "We own over 300,000 vehicles and some of the feedback we receive from drivers shows that a lot of bad habits have crept in, due to myths passed down from one colleague to another or through friends and family."

The firm's 'Myths Hit List' is:

'Premium fuel is good for your car every now and again'

It is only suitable for high performance cars needing superior fuel for efficient running – the higher cost is repaid by better mpg. Drivers using non-performance cars should stick to ordinary unleaded and diesel.

Another myth suggests supermarket fuel is poorer quality than that from oil companies' forecourts, but they often come from the same source, so you're paying more for the brand and any additives included.

'It's best to fit your new tyres to the front axle'

Actually, they should be fitted to the rear. More grip on the rear axle improves stability on slippery roads and could prevent a spin.

Drivers are also more used to worn tyres on the front, because most modern cars are front wheel drive and wear front treads faster than the rears; switching part-worn rears to the front maintains a balance that the driver is used to.

'Allow the car to warm up before driving off'

The engine will warm up faster, use less fuel and pump out less CO2 if you drive off immediately, rather than leave it to idle for a while. In winter, this also helps the car heater warm faster, though windscreens must be fully defrosted before setting off.

'Running the fuel tank near to empty helps to clean it'

ON A ROLL: If you are buying two new tyres, they should be fitted to the back wheels say experts, as most modern cars are front-wheel drive, like the latest Vauxhall Astra and Mazda3 pictured here – new additions to the family hatchback sector.

Fuel tanks do not 'self-clean'. It is more likely that you will misjudge your next fill-up and risk seizing up your engine or other components; driving with little or no fuel can be almost as damaging to a vehicle as putting in the wrong fuel. Fill up as quickly as possible when your warning light appears.

'Filling up slows down your car'

Partially true. A heavy fuel load impacts upon fuel efficiency and braking distances, but acceleration and top speed is barely compromised by a full tank.

'No claims protection insurance protects my premium if I have a crash'

Standard insurances only protect the discount you would have received at the end of a claim-free year. If you have a claim, insurance companies can increase your overall premium, despite having a no claims protection policy, because you are an increased insurance risk.

Admittedly, the company has a vested interest in the final point:

'Leasing is more expensive than buying'

Many businesses and motorists fail to properly calculate the true cost of ownership. List price alone is a red herring, and ignores true running costs: finance, depreciation, maintenance and insurance.

All such costs can be better captured and budgeted through a lease deal.

Last call for Scrappage?

BY **STEVE LOADER**

AFTER a stuttering start the Government's £2,000 Scrappage incentive accelerated into a big success last year.

So much so that the initial £300 million fund needed a 50 per cent top-up last autumn to avoid running out before the proposed end of the scheme in March this year.

But money is dwindling again, and it is difficult to read how the Government will react to another top-up or an extension.

It could be simply delaying a decision so that it can maximise the political mileage ahead of the spring general election, but it is also questionable whether the scheme does much for UK PLC or its balance of payments – foreign-based carmakers and their workforces have been the main beneficiaries.

So get your order in now before the cash runs out if you fancy swapping your banger.

HIT: Scrappage made the frugal Hyundai i10 hatchback one of the UK's top sellers

NEW LOOK: Scrappage has tempted many people out of old cars and into sharp-suited affordable new ones like the Chevrolet Cruze

The donor car must have been registered before August 31, 1999 and your name must have been on the V5 'logbook' for 12 months before the date your new car order is placed.

Carmakers like the scheme, though quietly annoyed that they would be expected to contribute half of each '£2,000 Government Scrappage grant' and that the Treasury would claw back some of its money through VAT on each car sale.

But they have seen that they can use Scrappage to buy market share and keep car plants running through the recession, and some brands have been chipping in extra cash on top of their £1,000 per unit as well as more specification and zero per cent finance – though this is no big deal when interest rates are so low.

This also indicates how keen dealers are to do business, so don't be despondent if you're not in a position to take advantage of Scrappage; with the exception of city cars and superminis, you should get a hefty discount on most new cars without a banger to scrap.

If you have been out of the car market for a while though, do your research. You will have heard that diesel cars now outsell petrol, but that is not the full picture.

They cost more, and the extra weight can be wearing and intrusive in the smaller cars most in demand now, and you need to cover many miles to recover the extra outlay.

Meanwhile, petrol is making a comeback with lighter, small capacity turbocharged engines able to deliver diesel pulling power and lower emissions.

You might also consider a hybrid, but these cost more and this must also be weighed against the mileage you intend to cover.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Northgate Alfa Motors in Canterbury is offering fixed price servicing for cars three-years plus, for example bronze care, £109
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering a free glass of wine or a pint with any main course in the Victory Pub
- KOS Media is offering a saving of up to £40 on Slumberdown Memory Foam Mattress Toppers
- FG Barnes Motors in Maidstone is offering £250 worth of accessories with Network Q purchases
- KOS Media is offering the Ewbank Evolution II for £24.99, save £5 on RRP
- Ashford Orbital Motors in Ashford is offering a winter check for £19.95 inc VAT, with free de-icer, ice scraper and screen wash
- KOS Media is offering a saving of £30 on the leader MD Electronic Typewriter – only £169.99
- Caffyns Tunbridge Wells Motors in Tunbridge Wells is offering an MOT for only £35
- Sink Ports kitchens and bathrooms store in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off kitchens
- Maidstone Kia Motors in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off all accessories
- KOS Media is offering a saving of up to £214 on a Denby Mist Dinner Set from only £99.99

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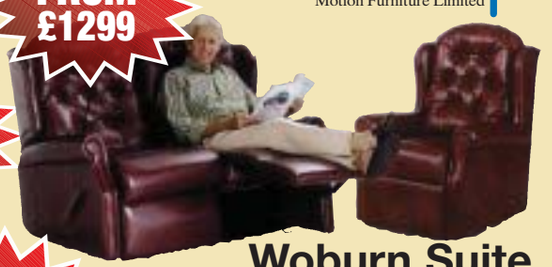

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Online: **www.kentnews.co.uk**

Well done for caring

A CARER who works with child victims of cruelty and neglect has been highly commended for the quality of his studies.

Robin Snelling, who is employed by the Caldecott Foundation in Smeeth, near Ashford, received the accolade after completing his NVQ Level 3 in health and social care for children and young people.

Caldecott chief executive Clive Lee said: "We are all very proud of Robin's achievement and thrilled that his hard work has been acknowledged.

"Robin is a first-class care worker and an asset to both the foundation and the young people in his care."

Learn skills to work

AN OFFICE skills course has been launched for adults planning to return to work.

Based at the Maidstone campus of MidKent College, the part-time programme teaches skills in book-keeping, typing, IT and more.

Lessons are held between 9.30am-2.30pm and are specifically targeted at those who have taken time out of work to bring up children or for other reasons. Call 01634 402020 for more information.

Celebrate achievers

NOMINATIONS are now open for the fourth annual South East Learning and Skills Awards.

Organised by the Learning and Skills Council, the awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and organisations and include categories such as apprentice of the year and "achieving against the odds" learner of the year.

Entries close on Friday, February 26. Download a nomination form at www.learningandskillsawards.org.uk

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AT HOME: The Open University courses mean foster parents can learn without having to worry about childcare

Home schooling helps to foster parental skills

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

FOSTER carers have been offered the chance to improve their skills by enrolling on one of several new courses with the Open University.

Created in partnership with the Fostering Network, the qualifications have been launched at a time when there are some 700 foster carers in Kent looking after about 1,000 children.

Nationally there are 43,000 foster families, with an estimated 10,000 more needed.

Available courses include undergraduate degrees in child care and health and social care.

Hazel Halle of the Fostering Network said: "Fostering is an increasingly complex and demanding job, and foster carers need a wide range of skills to provide the best possible care.

"Like all professionals they must have access to ongoing learning and development opportunities.

"The partnership with the Open University will remove barriers and make it easier for more foster carers to access formal academic training and qualifications.

"This will enable them to fulfil their role as child care experts alongside the team of other professionals working with a child."

A recent report by the Fostering Network revealed that 83 per cent of carers would like to improve their skills, and 70 per cent have asked their fostering service to provide more training.

It also showed that three-quarters have turned down training in the past because they were unable to secure childcare, the location was difficult to reach or it was scheduled at an inconvenient time.

As well as the more formal degree qualifications, the OU is also offering introductory courses on subjects including healthcare, nutrition and psychology.

Foster carer Kevin Meehan said: "We are expected to be homemakers, counsellors, mediators and teachers, as well as experts in conflict management, dysfunctional behaviour and child psychology.

"Access to academic and professional training is therefore essential for us to continue to provide children with the highest standard of care."

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Raising Your Game - Big Lottery 5 year project

Raising Your Game is a £4.9 million Lottery-Funded project delivered in partnership by Mencap, Nacro and Ican and will run between November 2009 and November 2014. It will be delivered in six pilot areas across England, including East Kent, and will work with all young people with learning disabilities between the ages of 14 and 25, including those who are at risk of, or are, currently offending to develop innovative ways of fully participating in their lives and services.

The post will be based in East Kent.

Regional Co-ordinator (37.5 hours)
£27,403

Actively helping young people work towards achieving their full potential you will work proactively with Nacro and one of our five other regional partners. You will also work alongside a young person appointed as Regional Learning Disability Consultant to the project.

You will:

- Develop and implement young peoples' participation standards across each region in years one and two;
- Identify and develop placement opportunities' and from the end of year two go on to place young people with a learning disability who are at risk of offending or who have offended.
- Identify and help organise opportunities for the young people involved to extend their skills and build upon their confidence, and so help diminish the likelihood of offending.

Regional Learning Disability Consultant (16 hours)
£17,727 pro rata

Having first-hand experience of what it is like to have a learning disability, you will support the Regional Coordinator to make information easy to understand, give presentations at conferences and events and give training to different groups. You will use your advocacy skills to tell people about the project and the needs of young people with a learning disability.

Equal Opportunities
Mencap aims to ensure that our jobs are open and accessible to all regardless of their gender, race, religion, sexuality, age or any other factor which might incur discrimination.
Applicants with disabilities
We are particularly keen in Mencap to promote the employment of people with a disability. Mencap will select for interview all applicants with a disability who meet the essential criteria for the job.

Appointments are subject to Mencap receiving an enhanced disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau which we consider appropriate

Closing Date 4th February 2010

Interviews scheduled 15th& 16th February 2010

For further information and to apply please visit our website at www.mencap.org.uk , email us at Recruitment.CommunityAction@mencap.org.uk

The above posts are funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund

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It's real people we are after…people who will listen to customers, take the time to understand their needs and build a real rapport with them. That's what we call doing things properly for our customers as we deliver great service, selling our products to people aged 50 and over.

And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives.

What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job.

The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure.

If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing an application form, quoting reference SVS356/KOS to Mark Mear, Group Director of Sales, c/o Human Resources Department, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 22 January 2010.

saga.co.uk

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Based in Maidstone

Whitehouse Maidstone Chrysler Jeep and Hyundai dealership, is looking for an experienced car sales executive with proven track record in the motor trade.

A competitive salary is offered together with on target bonus, company vehicle and 22 days holiday per annum.

To apply or for more information call **Mark Wood** on **markwood@whitehousegroup.co.uk** or send your CV to **Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8QX**

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deadline: 25/02/2010

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To apply or for more information call Dennis Crighton on 01622 686864 or send your CV to Whitehouse Maidstone, 1-17 The Broadway, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8QX.

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So if you're looking for a new challenge, please send your application to Clare Dickinson, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email human.resources@saga.co.uk Please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website. Please quote the appropriate reference number in your application.

Closing date: 22 January 2010.

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And if you can help us achieve that, we'll do things properly for you too. You'll get excellent training and development at every stage and your hard work will be rewarded with the chance to earn additional bonuses, incentive trips, entry to our elite Top Producers' Club and unlimited earnings potential. There are also superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives.

What's more, it means a friendly working environment – as well as all the support you need to do a terrific job.

The question is, have you got what it takes? You'll need to be target driven and able to rise to new challenges, that's for sure.

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Closing date: 29 January 2010.

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The positions main roles will be supporting and supervising our foster carers and to undertake social work tasks within the agency. The agency offers the chance to:

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If either post interests you, we would like to hear from you! Please send us your CV's or call for a chat!

Daniel Croft Email:daniel@momentsfostering.co.uk
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If you can't make either of the open days, we'd still like to hear from you. To apply for either of the positions, call 01303 774888 for an application form and post to Roisin McCrudden, HR Officer, Direct Choice, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE. Alternatively, email your CV to recruitment@directchoice.co.uk Please quote reference DC361/KOS.

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If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Sue Hamilton, Service Manager KCA Thanet on 01843 298355 ex. 217 or Christine Gordon, Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex. 2.

Closing date: Wednesday 20 January 2010.
Interview date: Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 635.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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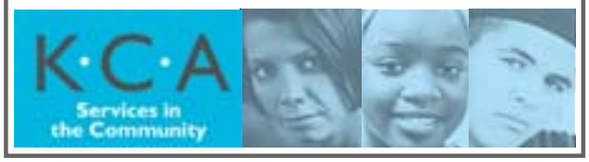

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Closing Date: 31January 2010

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If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Conversant with duties of Company Secretary

Part-time bookkeeper required for family business and Charitable Foundation. We have an extensive property portfolio in South East England and France, and the Foundation also runs a large community Art Centre in Chatham.

The successful applicant will be a confident, self-motivated and experienced person able to produce forecasts as required, quarterly financial reports, draft year end accounts to enable Accountants to prepare year end Tax Returns, Annual Returns for Companies House and the Charity Commission, payroll, profit and loss, etc. A good working knowledge of Sage accounts software essential. Car driver preferred as you will be required to work in two offices. 24 hours pw over 4 days. Able to commence work February 2010.

Tel: 01634 819618 Fax: 01634 827405 or e.mail carol@halpernpropertiesltd.com

Faversham Residential Home
requires
Care Assistants
to work on rota basis
Also required
Weekend Domestic
9am – 2pm
For further details please telephone 01795 532629 between 10am – 4pm

Bethany Lodge
Require
Weekend Cook
8.00am to 2:00pm
Saturday and Sunday
For more information please call Paul Mills
Tel: **01303 872289**

Thomas MOT Technician
required for local Fuel Injection Garage
We are seeking a qualified technician with proven experience to undertake the following:

MOT Testing
Vehicle Servicing
Diagnostics and subsequent repairs
Clean current driving licence required
Basic IT skills required

Working hours:
Mon- Fri - 8.00 to 5.00
Sat morning 8.00 to 12.00 (1 off per month)
Contact: kathy@thomasautos.co.uk

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New Year, New Challenge
MidKent College have exciting one year secondment opportunities for the following positions:

Assistant Principal (£63K) negotiable subject to experience.
Head of Faculty (£46K) negotiable subject to experience.
Teacher Coach (£33K) negotiable subject to experience.

MidKent College is a large, successful FE College operating on two main campuses in Medway and Maidstone. Our state of the art, £86 million Medway campus is next door to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College is training all their soldiers in Construction & Engineering under a 30-year contract.

Our recent OFSTED Inspection described the College as 'good' overall with 'outstanding' capacity to improve. We would like to accelerate our improvement agenda by seconding individuals who will relish the chance to undertake a specific improvement project within the College in areas such as A levels, Skills for Life, Construction, Engineering, Teaching and Learning. Whether you are already in FE, working in a school or Sixth Form College, or working elsewhere in education, this is an ideal opportunity to develop your skills in a supportive environment working alongside some high quality senior leaders.

We particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups and will meet reasonable living expenses for staff who live outside the area.

The roles above are the indicative levels that we seek secondments at. There is, however, some scope for flexibility for high calibre individuals who can help us on our journey to be "outstanding"!

If you are interested in knowing more please contact our retained consultant Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 or by email ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE · POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE · Action for Business College · MidKent College

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Thanet is a beautiful place to work

thanet

Thanet is a great place to live and work. Our historic seaside towns of Ramsgate, Margate and Broadstairs are rich in heritage and opportunity. From the multi-million pound Turner Contemporary Gallery, the fast speed rail link to London, and the popular Westwood Cross shopping centre - this is an exciting time to join Thanet District Council. We are determined to improve the quality of life for local people. We believe that by listening to local people, working in active partnership and by being prepared to do things in an innovative way we can accelerate improvement and best meet the challenges ahead.

Committee Services Manager
Salary £29,895 to £35,007 per annum

Under the guidance of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, this post will be responsible for managing a small team of officers providing committee and scrutiny services, and will contribute to relevant projects, such as the updating of the Council's constitution and the development of a Member learning & development strategy. Applicants need to be educated to degree level and have considerable experience of committee and scrutiny services, including management experience.

Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
Salary £26,940 to £30,738 per annum

This post provides an exciting opportunity for someone with an interest in policy review, because roughly half of the time the post holder will support the Council's overview and scrutiny function. That involves bringing together the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel investigating local issues, the Cabinet Members that take the decisions and the Directors that advise them. A mature approach to undertaking the work is essential, to ensure the scrutiny role adds value to the Council's achievements. The remainder of the time the post holder will provide more general support to some of the Council's other committees, arranging and attending meetings, and taking minutes. Applicants need to be educated to degree level or equivalent.

The closing date for both positions is: Friday 12 February 2010
Interviews will be held: Tuesday 2 or Wednesday 3 March 2010

For an informal discussion about both positions, please contact Glenn Back on 01843 577187

All posts include generous annual leave, flexible working, a 37-hour week, subsidised bus pass, as well as access to the local government final salary pension scheme.

For an application form and job description for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on (01843) 577175 (24 hours), e-mail jobs.hrpartnership@dover.gov.uk or, download an application form from www.thanet.gov.uk/jobs. Applications to be returned to: East Kent H R Partnership, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield. Dover CT16 3PJ

Thanet District Council is an equal opportunities employer committed to employing people with disabilities. Any disabled applicant who meets the minimum criteria for the posts will be guaranteed an interview.

The smart way to find your next job JobsforKent.co.uk

TERM TIME TEACHERS

TEACHERS AND COVER SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

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Valence School

KEYWORKER

FULL TIME – Working Term Time Only

This post involves shift work and to have responsibility for and work to promote all aspects of personal development and individual progress for a group of Key Students.
Kent Scheme Band 5
£16,793 to £18,471 full time equivalent

STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Full Time and Part Time hours available, Term Time Only.

This post involves shift work in supporting students with all their needs throughout their waking day, both within and outside the classroom.
Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)
£14,099 to £15,984 full time equivalent

WAKING NIGHT STUDENT SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Shifts are 10 p.m. until 8 a.m. Term Time Only.

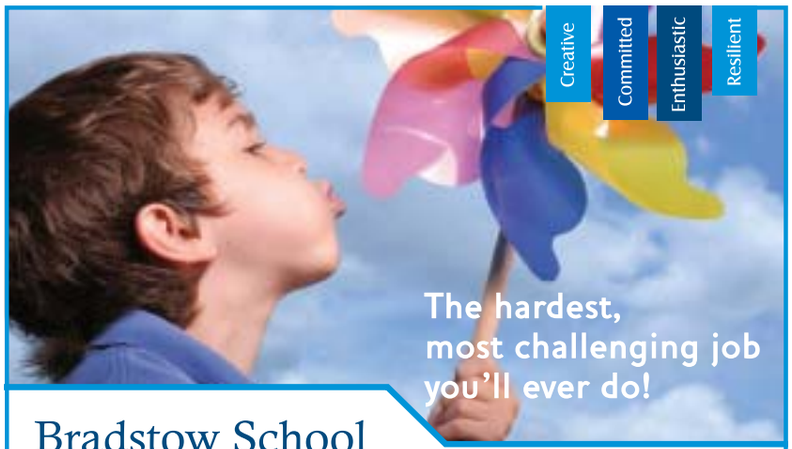
This post involves working waking nights, and supporting students with their personal care needs over the night. There are a number of nights available.
Kent Scheme Band 3 (pro-rata)
£14,099 - £15,984 full time equivalent plus unsocial hours allowance

Valence School is a Kent County Council all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.

For further information and an application form, please contact Staff Services Department. Please note the closing date for applications is Friday 22nd January 2010 at 4pm.
Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN
Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046
e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

To advertise in this section
01892 616103



Bradstow School

DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER
CHILDCARE
£22,985 - £25,472 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts & weekends) – Term time only

To assist the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. To manage the administration of the team. To take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager.

HOUSEPARENT
CHILDCARE
£19,621- £22,221 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts & weekends) – Term time only

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS
CHILDCARE
£13,874 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week (including weekends) – Term time only & £11,166 plus 10% per annum - 33 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only & £4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) – Term time only

Working as part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT WORKERS
CHILDCARE
£10,079 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week (including weekends) – Term time only

Working as part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS
EDUCATION
The successful applicants will be responsible for assisting teachers in the school and have a particular responsibility towards one teaching group.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKER EDUCATION
£12,689 per annum - 37½ hours per week
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Mon-Fri – Term time only

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT
£10,320 per annum - 34 hours per week,
9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Mon-Fri – Term time only

For all Term Time Only posts, there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid. For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.
Applications should be received no later than 12 noon, Friday 22nd January 2010.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Medway Council
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All Saints

A Sure Start Children's Centre
Magpie Hall Road, Chatham ME4 5AZ

Nursery Officer **Ref: CA0925L**

Grade D1 Salary: £12,787 - £16,440 per annum
Hours: 37 hours per week, working a shift pattern

Our full daycare nursery is looking for another member of staff to join its busy team, working with babies and children under the age of three years. If you have an early years qualification, (minimum level 2), post qualifying experience and a passion for providing the highest quality care and education for young children then we would like to hear from you.

Café Worker **Ref: CA0926L**

(maternity cover for approximately 6-9 months)
Grade D1 Salary: £12,787 - £16,440 per annum
Hours: 37 hours per week

As café worker you will be involved with the day-to-day running of the café including preparing and cooking food, menu planning and preparing meals for children in our full daycare nursery as well as assisting in making the community café a focus for our community. You will be enthusiastic, passionate about food and nutrition, confident, innovative and customer focused with experience of a fast moving catering environment.

Any offer of employment for these posts will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure.

For further information or an informal discussion please contact the centre on 01634 338833.

Closing date for both posts: Friday, 29 January 2010

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 1pm or **01634 332843** 24-hour answerphone. **Alternatively email: jobs@medway.gov.uk** quoting the reference.

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Accommodation Manager

Churchill House is a private school offering English courses to international students throughout the year in Ramsgate plus summer junior courses at centres throughout the UK.

Under the direction of the Accommodation Manager the provision of family homestay accommodation is an integral part of all courses. Responsibilities include selection and management of families, student placement, planning, staffing, quality management.

The successful candidate will have skills in these specific areas, a proven management record, an ability to excel under extreme pressure and excellent communication skills. Self motivation and a passion for maximising customer satisfaction are fundamental requirements and will be rewarded with a salary commensurate with relevant experience.

Full CV and current salary to Churchill House, Ramsgate, CT11 9EQ Deborah.Cook@churchillhouse.co.uk

To advertise in this section

01892 616103

THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

ENDOSCOPY SISTER – (Margate)
25 hrs per week
Previous applicants for the above post need not apply.

Dual Trained Nurse (Margate)
30 hrs per week

Paediatric Nurses (Margate/Ashford)
Flexi Bank

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Vicky Smith or Mary Guarnieri - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207 (Margate)
Debbie Burr – 01233 616202 (Ashford)

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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The Malling School

Beech Road, East Malling, Kent, ME19 6DH 01732 840995

MPS Teacher + SEN 1

Enthusiastic, innovative teacher to join dedicated, supportive staff of Tydeman Centre within mainstream secondary school.

Ability to teach variety of subjects to small groups with dyslexia, speech & language, autistic spectrum disorders. To deliver individual tutorial programme to small tutor group.

Primary or Secondary experience; interest in Maths, Science or ASDAN advantage. Specialist training offered.

Tydeman Centre 'outstanding' - OFSTED April 2009

Contact Ann Noble to visit.

Further details / forms from career opportunities link on website: www.themallingschool.kent.sch.uk

Applications to Elaine Greenwood
elaine.greenwood@mhfederation.co.uk
by **Friday 29 January 2010**

NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
Tel: 0844 477 2525 Fax: 01474 335058

We are a highly successful and ambitious school. As part of the Building Schools for the Future and transforming learning initiative our school has undergone dramatic change. Our staff needs reflect that and to ensure that our students receive the best support we are currently seeking to employ:

EXAMINATIONS SECRETARY
£7,498 to £8,425 p.a. 20 hours per week
Term time plus support for examination results
Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 5 £16,440 to £18,471 full time equivalent

The post holder will support the smooth running of all aspects of all in school examinations and the accurate recording of pupil attainment for statutory and in-school assessments. Must be computer literate with a good knowledge of SIMS and Microsoft packages and an ability to communicate and co-operate effectively at all levels, with tact and diplomacy.

ACADEMIC COACH in MATHEMATICS
£13,872 to £15,586 p.a. 37 hours per week
Term time only (39 weeks per year) 8.15 a.m. start
Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 5 £16,440 to £18,471 full time equivalent

To work with the more able individuals and groups of students to motivate and ensure adequate challenge, in order that students meet their targets and that any barriers to learning are overcome. You will work as part of a domain focused curriculum team, and be educated to at least A Level standard in mathematics.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT
£11,391 to £11,968 p.a. 31.25 hours per week
Term time only (39 weeks per year) 8.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.
Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £15,984 to £16,793

Learning Support Assistant to work with students who have identified social and emotional behavioural needs . The ideal candidate will have experience of working with adolescents or within a school, possibly with ASD or similar diagnosis, and be able to provide evidence of good levels of literacy and numeracy.

All positions require a flexible approach to working, the ability to work as part of a team as well as under your own initiative and good communication skills at all levels are essential. Appointment will be subject to full enhanced CRB check.

Full job descriptions available on request. To apply please submit a full C.V. to Personnel Administrator at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ Tel: 0844 477 2525 or e:mail personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications : 31 January 2010

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 1 OF SCHEDULE 14

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

THE TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS WBX17 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD TO CLANRICARDE ROAD AND WBX18 CHURCH ROAD TO WBX17) (NO 1) PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2010

The above order was made on 13th January 2010. The effect of the order will be to stop up the public footpaths running from Mount Pleasant Road to Clanricarde Road (WBX17) and from Church Road to path WBX17 (WBX18) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and order map may be seen free of charge at Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB between the hours of 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (except Thursday 9am to 6.30pm) or 10am and 4pm on Saturday. Copies of the order and map may be obtained there free of charge.

Any representation about or objection to the order may be sent or delivered in writing addressed to the Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1 RS not later than 17th February 2010. Please state grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council may itself confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Regional Affairs for confirmation any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Paul Cummins, Legal Services Manager,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council,
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS.

Dated : 16th January 2010

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Highways – District of Ashford

VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2010 (STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2010. ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1, 2. 32, 35 and 124 and Parts III and IV of Schedule 9 under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to introduce a Residents Parking Zone with Time Limited Parking Bays in Victoria Crescent and Time Limited Parking Bays only in Bowens Field (Main Road), Jemmett Road (part) and Victoria Road, Ashford.

A copy of the proposed Orders, an explanatory statement and a map showing the roads affected may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, Ashford Borough Council Offices, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL.

Anyone wishing to support, or object to this proposal should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB quoting the name of the Order and reference No "B501400" and stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 8th February 2010.

PILGRIMS LANE, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new gas supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Pilgrims Lane, Chilham outside 'The Moorings', on or after 18 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of 3 days, or until the works are complete.

There is no through access at 'The Moorings'.
The alternative route for through traffic will be via A28 Canterbury Road and either Bowerland Lane or Shalmsford Road.

OAKS ROAD, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway improvements works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Oaks Road, Tenterden from junction with Elmfield to its junction with East Cross in a West to East direction on the northern side on or after 18 January 2010 for an estimated period of seven days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Beacon Oak Road, Ashford Road and East Cross

This order will come into force on Monday 18 January 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

COOMBE LANE, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because footway improvements works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Coombe Lane, Tenterden for the full length on 18 January 2010 for an estimated period of seven days or until such works are complete.

There is no alternative route available.

This order will come into force on Monday 18 January 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

SHALMSFORD ROAD, CHILHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Shalmsford Road, Chilham between the junctions with the A28 Canterbury Road and Pilgrims Lane, on or after 6 February 2010 for an estimated period of 1 day or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A28 Canterbury Road, Mulberry Hill, Cobbs Hill, Lower Lees Road and Shalmsford Road.

POUND LANE, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and strengthening, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Pound Lane, Brabourne, between the junction with Canterbury Road and 'Wren Cottage,' on or after 1 February 2010, for an estimated period of up to 5 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road, Plain Road and Pound Lane.

BETHERSDEN ROAD, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway strengthening and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Bethersden Road, Smarden, between the junction with Romden Road and Blinks Farm, on or after 1 February 2010, for an estimated period of up to 3 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Bethersden Road, Pot Kiln Lane, High Halden Road, Wagstaff Lane, Kelsham Lane and Luckhurst Lane.

HIGHWAYS – District of Canterbury

ANVIL GREEN ROAD, WALTHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT pole and cable replacement works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Anvil Green Road, Waltham between Penny Pot Lane and Temple Field, on or after 1 February 2010. This is for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete. The works will be carried out between the hours 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Richdore Road, Kake Street and Waltham Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

OAKFIELD LANE & CEDAR ROAD, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Oakfield Lane and Cedar Road as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 18th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in schedule 1.

These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate gas and water mains replacement and services.

Schedule 1

Extent: Between its junctions with Hawley Road and Hazel Road
Date: 18th January 2010 for 6 weeks
Diversion: Dartford Town Centre Bound Traffic - Lowfield Street, Princes Road, Heath Lane and Oakfield Lane

Road Name: Oakfield Lane
Extent: Between its junctions with Hawley Road and Hazel Road
Date: 18th January 2010 for 6 weeks
Diversion: Traffic going East Bound - Hawley Road, Princes Road, Heath Lane and Oakfield Lane

Road Name: Cedar Road
Extent: Oakfield Road for approx 100m
Date: 18th January 2010 for 6 weeks
Diversion: Elm Road and Hazel Road

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

PEASE HILL, ASH CUM RIDLEY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Pease Hill, Ash Cum Ridley outside Pease Hill Cottage.

The Order will become effective on 18th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via:

NORTH – Hartley Bottom Road, Redhill Road, Ash Road/The Street

SOUTH – Malthouse Road, Green Lane and South Ash Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway permanent reinstatement works

MUSSENDEN LANE, HORTON KIRBY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Mussenden Lane, Horton Kirby adjacent to Elmside and Boyneswood properties.

The Order will become effective on 18th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 14 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Mussenden Lane, Lombard Street and School Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electricity supply

ST JULIANS ROAD, SEAL (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on St Julians Road, Seal between its junctions with A225 River Hill/Tonbridge Road to Fawke Green Road.

The Order will become effective on 1st February 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 14 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Tonbridge Road, High Street, Seal Hollow Road, Blackhall Lane and Park Lane.

Tonbridge Road, River Hill, London Road, Bank lane, Carters Hill and Fawke Wood Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate tree works

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

CLOCKHOUSE LANE, BOUGHTON UNDER BLEAN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of track maintenance on behalf of Network Rail, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Clockhouse Lane, Boughton under Blean, at Clock House Level Crossing, on or after 24 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of 1 day, between the hours of 8.00 am and 4.00 pm, or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Clockhouse Lane, Selling Road and Brenley Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

CROW HILL, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of essential carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Crow Hill, Broadstairs, between the junctions with Claire Court and Stone Road, on or after 18 January 2010. This is for an estimated period of 1 day or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Kings Avenue, Knights Avenue and Stone Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Ramsgate, as shown in the Schedule to this Order, on or after 1 February 2010 for an estimated period of 18 weeks or until the works are complete. Each of the roads will be shut at its junction with Margate Road.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in the schedule.

Road Name: Coleman Crescent
Extent: At its north junction with Margate Road
Dates: 1 February 2010 for up to 6 weeks
Diversion: Margate Road

Road Name: Allenby Road
Extent: At its junction with Margate Road
Dates: 15 March 2010 for up to 10 weeks
Diversion: Margate Road and Newington Road

Road Name: Winifred Avenue
Extent: At its junction with Margate Road
Dates: 24 May 2010 for up to 2 weeks
Diversion: Margate Road and Allenby Road

KING STREET AND NEW STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on King Street and New Street, Margate, as shown in the Schedule to this Order, on or after 1 February 2010, for an estimated period of 14 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative routes for through traffic and additional details will be as shown in the Schedule.

Road Name: King Street, Margate
Extent: Between the junctions of Broad Street and The Parade
Dates: 1 February 2010 for up to 4 weeks
Diversion: Hawley Street, Cecil Square, Queen Street, Marine Gardens, Marine Drive and The Parade

Other Details: The One-way Traffic Order in respect of King Street will be suspended between Broad Street and The Parade to allow access via The Parade, when advised locally

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of 'The Piazza' will be suspended to allow traffic to allow to exit from The Piazza, when advised locally

Road Name: New Street, Margate
Extent: Between the junctions with High Street and Hawley Street
Dates: 1 March 2010 for up to 10 weeks
Diversion: Westbound via Hawley Street, King Street, The Parade, Market Street and High Street Eastbound via High Street, Queen Street, Cecil Square, Hawley Street and New Street

Other details: When works are being carried out at the junction of Hawley Street, there will be a temporary one way traffic Order prohibiting eastbound traffic between the junctions of New Cross Street and Hawley Street, as advised locally. Eastbound traffic will be diverted via New Cross Street, Lombard Street and Hawley Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

REDWELL LANE, IGHTHAM (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Redwell Lane, Ightham outside of Yew Tree Cottage on or after Monday 1st February 2010 for a period of up to
9 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Redwell Lane, Common Road, Sandy Lane, Ismays Road, Redwell Lane and vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is David Creasey on 01732 783985.

LUNSFORD LANE, EAST MALLING & LARKFIELD (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lunsford Lane from number 147 to the north side of the M20 bridge on or after Monday 1st February 2010 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Kingfisher Road, New Hythe Lane, Leybourne Way and Gighill Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential major drainage works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

CHURCH LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Norice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Church Lane, Trottiscliffe between School Lane and The Street on or after Monday 1st February 2010 between 09:00hrs and 15:00hrs for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via School Lane and The Street and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for major drainage repairs. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Jamie Finch
on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

BULLINGSTONE LANE, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bullingstone Lane, Speldhurst from the junction of Bullingstone Lane to Bullingstone Cottages on or after Monday 19th January 2010 for up to 1 week until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Bullingstone Lane, Penshurst Road, Speldhurst Road, Langton Road, and vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to carry out essential drainage works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in the Schedule.

The alternative routes as described will be noted in the schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure. The Order will become effective on Monday 18th January 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

Schedule

Road Name: A264 Langton Road, Rusthall
Extent: The Hare PH crossroads
Dates: Start: 20th January 2010
End: 22nd January 2010
Diversion: A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 St John's Road, A26 London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge, Penshurst Road, Rogues Hill, B2188 Penshurst High Street, Fordcombe Road, New Road, Saints Hill, Spring Hill, Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road and A264 Langton Road

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

MOBILE CAFETERIA SERVICES IN PARKS

The Borough Council invites quotations for the PROVISION OF Mobile Cafeteria Services in Parks selling hot and cold beverages, ice-cream, snacks etc. at one or more separate established sites, with the estimated contract values of: HAYSDEN COUNTRY PARK (TONBRIDGE) £5k, TONBRIDGE CASTLE GROUNDS £10k, and LEYBOURNE LAKES COUNTRY PARK £5k for a three year period commencing 1st April 2010.

Further details will be sent by contacting Leisure Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ, or by telephoning 01732 876166 or Emailing leisure.services@tmbc.gov.uk quoting Reference Number LS/KM0110. All contractors must complete a questionnaire and provide supporting documentation.

All quotations and other information must be returned in the approved form by no later than **12 noon on Friday 5 February 2010.**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Woodlands Manor Golf Club, Tinkerpot Lane, Woodlands, Otford**
Applicant: **Ken Thornton**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Kent County Council

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

09/04064/LBC The Coach House Franks Hollow Road, Bidborough
- Listed Building Consent: Conversion of attached single garage to form further habitable accommodation; additional window; replace roof and repairs; retain window recently installed on south side of double garage (LB)

09/04050/FUL Elmhurst Dundle Road, Brenchley
- Extension of residential curtilage (LB)

09/03911/LBCDEM Burgess Hill Farm And Barn Pembury Road, Capel
- Listed Building Consent: Demolition of farmhouse and barn (LB)

09/04071/FUL Brook Farm Five Oak Green Road, Capel
- Renewal - Erection of motorcycle showroom and workshops with ancillary accommodation, storage and vehicle sales (TW/06/03364 refers) for Lindbrook Ltd (LB) (DEVPLN)

09/03975/HOUSE 3 Earls Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Single-storey rear extension, raised terrace and external alterations (CA)

09/04063/LBC Solomons Rye Road, Hawkhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of existing two-storey rear extension and replacement with ground and first floor extension. In addition to TW/08/02123/LBC, change in position of wc from under the stairs to within the utility room, extend the garden retaining wall and increase height of the ceiling over the shower (LB)

09/03992/HOUSE 36 Brewer Street Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst
- Conversion of existing garage into games room with first floor extension over (CA)

09/03984/HOUSE 41 High Street Pembury, Pembury
- Two-storey side extension (CA)

09/04040/FUL 10 Lower Green Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Rusthall
- Change of use of one room in residential dwelling from A1 (shop) to residential (CA)

09/04049/FUL Sissinghurst Castle Biddenden Road, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
- New tool store within existing gardeners' compound (LB)

10/00007/FUL Willow Tree Cottage Franks Hollow Road, Speldhurst
- Change of use from agricultural to residential curtilage (PROW)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 16 January 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Road Name: A264 Langton Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: (The Spa Roundabout) From Major York's Road to Rusthall Road.
Dates: Start: 22nd January 2010 End: 29th January 2010
Diversion: A264 Bishops Down, A264 Mount Ephraim, A26 St John's Road, A26 London Road, B2176 Bidborough Ridge, Penshurst Road, Rogues Hill, B2188 Penshurst High Street, Fordcombe Road, New Road, Saints Hill, Spring Hill, Fordcombe Road, A264 Ashurst Road and A264 Langton Road

Road Name: Vauxhall Lane, Southborough
Extent: A26 to Honnington Farm
Dates: Start: 25th January 2010 End: 27th January 2010
Diversion: Vauxhall Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road and A26 London Road

Road Name: A268 Queen Street, Sandhurst
Extent: Megrims Hill to Marsh Quarter Lane
Dates: Start: 27th January 2010 End: 2nd February 2010
Diversion: A268 Megrims Hill, A268 Rye Road, A229 Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst Road, Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 The Street, Sissinghurst Road, Biddenden High Street, A262 Tenterden Road, Biddenden Road, A28 Silver Hill, A28 Tenterden Road, Tenterden High Street, Hastings Road, A268 Link Hill

Road Name: Speldhurst Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: From A26 London Road to Lady's Gift Road
Dates: Start: 29th January 2010 End: 4th February 2010
Diversion: A26 St John's Road, A264 Mount Ephraim, A264 Bishops Down, A264 Langton Road, The Green, Speldhurst Road, Langton Road, Speldhurst Hill, Etherington Hill and Speldhurst Road

Road Name: Sherenden Road, Capel
Extent: Lilley Farm to Hartlake Road
Dates: Start: 2nd February 2010 End: 6th February 2010
Diversion: Hartlake Road and B2017 Five Oak Green Road

Road Name: Tutsham Way, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 8th February 2010 End: 11th February 2010
Diversion: Ringden Avenue, B2160 Maidstone Road, Mount Pleasant and Cogate Road

Road Name: Bullion Close, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 11th February 2010 End 12th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Mercers Close, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 11th February 2010 End 12th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Alliance Way, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 11th February 2010 End 12th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Northdown Close, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 12th February 2010 End 15th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Keyworth Close, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 12th February 2010 End 15th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Goldings, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 15th February 2010 End 16th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Lansdowne Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 15th February 2010 End 18th February 2010
Diversion: Garden Road, Camden Road Calverley Road and Carrs Corner Roundabout

Road Name: Woodlands, Paddock Wood
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 16th February 2010 End 17th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Rope Walk, Cranbrook
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 17th February 2010 End 19th February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Hendley Drive, Cranbrook
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 18th February 2010 End 23rd February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Hendley Terrace, Cranbrook
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 18th February 2010 End 23rd February 2010
Diversion: N/A Cul-de-sac

Road Name: Woodbury Park Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 19th February 2010 End 26th February 2010
Diversion: Dunstan Road, Queens Road and A26 St John's Road

Road Name: Whites Lane, Hawkhurst
Extent: Whole Length
Dates: Start: 26th February 2010 End 2nd March 2010
Diversion: Water Lane, A268 Rye Road, A299 Cranbrook Road, Ockley Road and Queens Road

Road Name: Cranbrook High Street
Extent: Carriers Rd junction
Dates: Start: 18th March 2010 End 22nd March 2010
Diversion: Stone Street, Waterloo Road, A229 Angley Road, Cranbrook High Street

Road Name: Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells
Extent: Approaches to Pelican crossing
Dates: Start: 19th March 2010 End 23rd March 2010
Diversion: Sandrock Road, A264 Pembury Road, Calverley Park Gardens, Carrs corner Roundabout, Calverley Road, Camden Road and Garden Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate carriageway resurfacing works to be undertaken by Kent Highway Services.

Please Note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

For further information or comment please call Tony Carreck of Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

To advertise in this section
01892 616103

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/02519/FL – Land At Whitegate Field Borough Green Road Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent – Wrotham School are applying for construction of a multipurpose artificial sports pitch with 8 raised lighting columns and pedestrian access. Reason: DEPART GPI

TM/09/01634/FL – Land Rear Of 5 To 37a Tolsey Mead Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent – Mr Arturo Cowling is applying for change of use on small strip of land to rear of properties 5-37a from agricultural to residential garden use (Retrospective). Reason: PROW

TM/09/03113/FLX – Bunyards Farm London Road Allington Maidstone Kent ME16 0LP – Kingsway Associates are applying for renewal of planning permission TM/04/02846/FL for 9 hole par three golf course, practice range, administration building and car parking. Reason: GPI

TM/09/03134/FL – Fairseat Lodge Vigo Road Fairseat Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7LU – Mr Richards is applying for demolition of outbuilding to rear and erection of triple bay open cart shed (one bay with doors) style garage, secure store and open log store. Reason: CA HH

Reasons for the case being publicised:

CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
PROW Application affects a Public Right of Way
DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan
GPI Application is of general Public Interest
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 7 February 2010.

David Hughes

Chief Executive

17 January 2010

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

By **STEVE LOADER**

Get a grip after the freeze

WHILE Kent was gripped by the big freeze, many drivers wondered where they could get extra grip.

So interest in new and used 4x4s is growing again after being clobbered by the recession, especially as would-be buyers find how cheap it can be to acquire serious go-anywhere performance.

Even before the snow and ice, experts at HPI Valuations warned that these beasts were seriously undervalued and buyers should move fast.

Spokesman Martin Keighley said: "The infamous 'Chelsea Tractor' has been slated by the green lobby over the last 12 months, and stands accused of destroying the planet.

"However, prior to this demonisation, the 4x4 provided a reliable and bold-looking alternative to the people carrier, catering for both families and the style-conscious alike.

"With greener versions now available, petrol models and other, more polluting models are getting left behind because environmentally conscious car-buyers can now purchase a 4x4 without it weighing on their conscience.

"As a result, demand for this sector is rising along with values, so buyers looking to own one shouldn't leave it long."

Of the serious players, Keighley rates the Land Rover Discovery 4, Mercedes-Benz M-Class and Volkswagen Touareg best for value and ability, but access to the rugged club can be much cheaper and here are some tips:

Go diesel if possible, but consider petrol with an LPG (liquid petroleum gas) conversion, or buying a petrol and spending £1,500-2,000 on an LPG conversion; LPG is half the price of petrol and has much lower emissions.

Proper 4x4s are designed for knocks, but check the underside and suspension for damage.

A tow bar is handy, but could signal higher wear on rear-end mechanicals from pulling a big caravan, boat or trailer.

Japanese is best: Mitsubishi Shoguns, Land Cruisers, Isuzu Troopers and Nissan Patrols are bulletproof if serviced regularly.

Go for kit. A 'fully-loaded' model with leather, air-con, and electric everything, will cost only slightly more – nothing like the extra it cost originally.

For three grand or even less, consider the following rough and tough options:

- **TOYOTA LAND CRUISER** (mid-late 1990s) – Diesel is best and the most indestructible, but the LC is a tank to drive.
- **MITSUBISHI SHOGUN** (1984-2000) – rivalled the Range Rover, but added reliability. Décor is more 'bordello' than 'Englishman's club' though.
- **RANGE ROVER** – three grand buys a smart late 90s/00s RR with diesel or petrol/LPG. Luxury and swank value outweighs flakey reliability.
- **KIA SORENTO** (2003-present) – the badge has no street cred, but you can have a late plate 4x4 for a small outlay.
- **NISSAN TERRANO** (1993-2006) – no looker and street cred is low, but it is a smaller yet genuine off-roader. Look out for even cheaper Ford Maverick clones on early plates.
- **ISUZU TROOPER** (up to 2003)/Vauxhall Monterey – not the most refined on road, but dependable. Three grand buys a decent diesel with all the gear.

TOUGH ENOUGH: Nissan Patrol is used for UN duties around the world

- **JEEP CHEROKEE** (1993-2001) – interior is rubbish and it is agricultural, but it is tough and looks the part and you get lots for your money. Only two engines worth considering: the 4.0 petrol – you will hurry to convert this to LPG – and the noisy but powerful 2.5 diesel.
- **JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE** (1994-99) – a 'poor man's Range Rover' with lots of kit and luxury, though suspect interior décor.
- **NISSAN PATROL** (1998-present) – seen on newsreels with 'UN' printed on the side. It is unrefined but hard to beat for affordable 4x4 ability.

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	RRP	OUR PRICE	SAVE
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Astra LIFE 1.6. 5 door with air con. in Metro Blue	£17395	£11995	£5400
Astra Active 1.4 5 door in black	£17119	£11995	£5124
Agila Design CDTi 1.3 5 door in Sugar white	£13300	£10495	£2805
Corsa Active CDTi 3 door in Black sapphire	£13029	£9995	£3034
Corsa SXi 1.4 with air con in silver	£13880	£10495	£3385

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Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	GJ55TFN	Agila Expression	1.0	5	Star silver	24,800	3,695
2009	GJ09ZWR	Agila Design Auto	1.2	5	Sugar white	2,290	9,495
2009	GJ09ZXG	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	4,150	8,495
2009	GJ09ZXH	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	6,230	9,495
2009	GJ09ZWP	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	5,210	9,495
2009	GF59CAX	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	£10,995
2009	GF59CBO	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	£10,995

CORSA

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2000	X276HGN*	Corsa Comfort Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	69,325	2,995
2001	Y895VKE*	Corsa Club	1.0	3	Star silver	60,250	2,495
2007	GF57WVU	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Air blue	21,575	6,995
2007	GJ57USS	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	25800	7,995
2008	GL57VXX	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	14,950	12,395
2008	GL57VYD	Corsa Design Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	34,500	8,295
2008	GJ08LBG	Corsa Breeze	1.2	3	Star silver	12,220	7,995
2008	GJ58BVZ	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3	3	Metro blue	7,035	9,495
2009	GF09SUX	Corsa Club Auto A/c	1.4	5	Air blue	3,250	9,995
2009	GL09FXB	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	2,990	9,995
2009	GJ09RXF	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/C	1.3	3	Black sapphire	9,670	9,495
2009	GJ09RVU	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	6,520	8,995
2009	GJ09RVW	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Black sapphire	6,236	8,995
2009	GL09FWH	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Metro blue	2,190	9,995
2009	GL09FWJ	Corsa Design Auto	1.4	5	Air blue	3,610	10,995
2009	GF59CFD	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Black sapphire	Del mileage	£9,995
2009	GF59CFE	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	Del mileage	£9,995
2009	GF59CGV	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Star silver	Del mileage	£10,595
2009	GF59CDY	Corsa Life A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	Del mileage	£10,895

TIGRA

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	EN06AOD	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	8,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	KY06NCU	Vectra elite CDTi (150)	1.9D	5	Black Sapphire	38,125	8,995
2007	DN07YYK	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	19,350	8,695
2008	GK58WEA	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	9,495

ASTRA

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	GK06UAV	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	22,675	7,995
2006	GF56SSK	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	8,495
2006	GK56YXP	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Moonland	28,600	7,895
2006	GJ56UJV	Astra Active	1.4	5	Ultra blue	13,480	7,495
2006	GK56KVV	Astra Active	1.6	5	Silver lightening	36,800	7,395
2007	KJ57LHH	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	5	Black sapphire	26,000	9,495
2007	GL57VYR	Astra Design Auto	1.8	5	Moonland	7,825	8,995
2008	GJ08LWX	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.4	3	Flame red	11,225	9,995
2008	LJ58SKU	Astra Sri Sports hatch CDTi	1.9D	3	Power red	15,850	13,495
2008	GJ58XGA	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	10,495
2008	KP58WCY	Astra Sri TBO X Pack	1.6	3	Metro blue	8,300	12,995
2008	GN58KXT	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Flame red	12,000	10,495
2009	GJ09RWY	Astra Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Metro blue	5,950	9,995
2009	GJ09RVR	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Metro blue	4,720	10,895
2009	GJ09RVT	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	7,190	10,845
2009	GJ09RWV	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.7D	3	Black sapphire	6,250	11,695
2009	GL09FVY	Astra Club	1.4	5	Moonland	5,120	9,995
2009	GL09FWD	Astra Club	1.4	5	Star silver	5,690	9,995
2009	GF59CFN	Astra Sxi Sports Hatch	1.6	3	Sovereign silver	Del mileage	£13,695
2009	GF59CEY	Astra Sxi	1.4	5	Technical grey	Del mileage	£12,995
2009	GF59CFZ	Astra Life A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue	Del mileage	£12,495
2009	GF59CEK	Astra Active	1.4	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	£12,295
2009	GF59CFX	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	Del mileage	£13,495
2009	GF59CFY	Astra Sxi Sport hatch	1.6	3	Technical grey	Del mileage	£13,695

MERIVA

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	GF56SUY	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,695
2007	GF57ZJE	Meriva Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	34,950	8,495
2008	GJ58BVE	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	9,995
2009	GL09FWB	Meriva Design	1.4	5	Air blue	3,260	9,995
2009	GJ09RXA	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	8,750	10,695

INSIGNIA & SIGNUM

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2006	GJ56UAP	Signum Elite CDTi	1.9D	5	Misty grey	51,685	7,995
2009	GF58YWD	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	6,300	18,995
2009	GJ09TVT	Insignia Sports Tourer Exc (160)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	12,000	16,995
2009	GJ09TVP	Insignia Elite CDTi Auto (160)	1.9D	4	Black sapphire	8,250	21,995
2009	GJ09JOV	Insignia Sports Tourer Exc (160)	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	5,925	16,995
2009	GJ09RWL	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
2009	GL09FWK	Insignia Exclusive CDTi	2.0	5	Technical grey	16,700	13,995

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2004	YH54AWP*	Zafira Design DTi	2.0D	5	Prestige blue	67,850	5,495
2006	GK56YFU	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Metro blue	40,250	7,995
2006	LV56HNW	Zafira Club Auto	1.8	5	Silver lightening	12,120	8,495
2009	GJ09TVZ	Zafira Sri XP CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	3,780	16,995

DUE SOON

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2008	GK08PTY	Zafira Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Star silver	27,000	9,495
2004	GF54SZY	Astra Elite	1.6	5	Black sapphire	37,175	5,995
2007	GF57OGD	Vectra CDTi Elite (150ps)	1.9D	5	Black sapphire	41,000	9,495

OTHERS

Year	Reg No	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
2005	GL55PNJ*	Ford Focus Zetec	1.6	5	Metallic grey	53,050	6,295
2004	GJ54VEX*	Peugeot Diesel 407S	1.6	4	Metallic grey	58,750	4,995
2002	GJ02ECX*	Renault Clio Expression +	1.4	5	Metallic blue	49,750	3,395

COMMERCIAL USED SELECTION

2006	VO56MYF	Combo Envoy, plylined	1.3 CDTi	White	36120	£5495
2007	GJ07UJB	Combo Crew van, PAS	1.3CDTi	White	8,700	£7,495
2007	GK57ZNP	Combo Fold flat passenger seat	1.3CDTi	White	11,450	£6,995
2007	GK57ZPD	Movano Long wheel base	2.50CDTi	White	10,300	£10,995
2008	GJ08HBU	Movano MWB, Plylined	2.5CDTI	White	11,050	£9,995
2008	GF08BHU	Movano LWB, Bulkhead, Plylined	2.5CDTI	White	6,460	£11,995
2008	GJ58BWD	Movano MWB H/R , Bulkhead	2.5CDTI	White	14,050	£10,995
2009	GJ09ZWV	Vivaro SWB, 115 bhp, plylined	2.0CDTi	White	9,950	£9,995
2009	GJ09ZWT	Vivaro LWB Double cab	2.0CDTi	Silver	6,120	£14,995

COMMERCIAL PRE-REG VEHICLES

2009	GF59CFP	Vivaro SWB 5 doors (115)	2.0D	White	Delivery	£12,995
2009	GL09FXD	Corsavan Sportive	1.3CDTi	Silver	Delivery	£8,995
2009	GL09FWG	Movano MWB 10'6" Alloy	2.5CDTi	White	Delivery	£13,995
2009	GF59CFJ	Combo CDTi 5 doors	1.7D	White	Delivery	£8,995
2009	GL09FWN	Astravan Sportive CDTi	1.7CDTi	Silver	Delivery	£10,995
2009	GF59CGK	Astravan Club 3 doors	1.7D	White	Delivery	£9,995
2009	GF59CFK	Astravan Club 3 door	1.7D	White	Delivery	£9,995
2009	GF59CFG	Astravan Club 3 doors	1.7D	White	Delivery	£9,995

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THE ROAD AHEAD

Compiled by STEVE LOADER

New VW's double resolve

VOLKSWAGEN'S latest model has gone with a familiar New Year resolution by vowing to drink less and not be so obnoxious.

The new Eos BlueMotion (from £20,695) coupe convertible is the first petrol-engine VW to feature the marque's fuel-saving, emission-slashing BlueMotion technologies.

It uses a high-efficiency turbocharged 122PS (120bhp) 1.4-litre engine with six-speed manual gearbox plus regenerative braking for most battery-charging – rather than sapping the engine – and start/stop and hill hold systems, helping the car to an average mpg of around 45.

CO2 emissions are also reduced from the 152g/km of the former Eos entry-level engine option to 144 g/km, yet the newcomer is still capable of 0-62mph in 10.9 seconds.

Standard kit includes ESP (electronic stabilisation programme), climate control, fog lights, alloys and sliding/tilt sunroof.

Hybrids can be fun, says Honda

HONDA has taken the wraps off the new machine it hopes will cement its range of hybrid cars while boosting economy.

It is the all-new Honda CR-Z hybrid, expected here this summer. Its sporty looks and agile handling are said to make it the most exciting partnership yet between a petrol engine and an electric motor and it also includes a manual gearbox – hybrids have mostly employed an auto set-up.

The powertrain comprises a 1.5 litre i-VTEC engine coupled to the electric/battery package already seen on the new Insight family model, allowing this eco sportster to emit just 117g/km and average more than 50mpg – better than many superminis.

Suzuki sparks grant grab?

SUZUKI has fired what may be the opening salvo in a battle for the remaining cash and sales fostered by the Government's £2,000-a-go Scrappage grants.

The scheme, launched in May last year but due to end in March, has seen sales of small cars soar and several carmakers increase market penetration – Suzuki's market share rose nearly 10 per cent in 2009 against an overall UK market drop of more than six per cent.

The Japanese marque's bid to maintain momentum will be helped by the new Alto city car (pictured), now available on a PCP (Personal Contract Purchase) scheme for just £95 per month, plus zero per cent finance on most models in the newly-refreshed Swift supermini line-up, as well as the SX4 and Grand Vitara SUV ranges.

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Motability

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO2 emissions 119g/km.
Vehicle shown features mica paint available at extra cost of £325. 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 31st January 2010. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev79242). Scrappage Allowance subject to eligibility, please ask for terms and conditions.

Motorline launches new used site

by SAMDAVISON

KENT dealer group Motorline has responded to the recession-led demand for used cars by opening Motorline All Makes Used Cars in Canterbury.

The new site is stocking nearly new and used cars and currently has around 100 vehicles on display in the open and in a newly-developed showroom, in Westminster Road within the Vauxhall Industrial Estate.

It is fitting that the new venture is in Canterbury; the family-run car dealer group was founded in the cathedral city in 1972, but has expanded to run 15 dealerships across six franchises – Toyota, Lexus, Renault, VW, Nissan and Skoda in Kent and West Sussex employing more than 400 staff.

This geographical and product reach is clearly part of the thinking behind the used car supermarket, which can then draw upon the best part exchanges from non-Motorline brands such as: Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen, Citroen, Audi and Mercedes-Benz – cars that would not normally be retailed through franchised outlets.

The site also aims to offer a wide range for the budget-conscious, from economical super-minis to MPVs for the bigger family.

Motorline MD Glen Obee said: "With over 35 years operating in the automotive sector in Kent and retailing over 10,000 vehicles a year, Motorline is well placed and experienced to source high quality used cars in the area.

"We're finding that as people have become more cost-conscious over the past 18 months, the market for good, well cared for used cars has grown. Our new facility aims to fulfil that demand."

He added that Motorline All Makes Used Cars will also offer extended warranties, gap insurance and flexible finance options. Potential buyers can also search from the comfort of their own homes as stock listings are updated daily online.

Global Focus on for next year

BRITAIN'S perennial best-selling car is set to go global.

Ford says the next generation Focus will form a major plank in its 'One Ford' strategy to build more cars for sale across the whole world rather than tailored to individual markets.

Production is set to start in Europe and North America late this year, with sales from early 2011 and gradual introduction to different markets – Ford says the third-generation Focus will have 80 per cent parts commonality around the world.

And there is yet more evidence of Ford's bid to drive upmarket away from the budget and mainstream sector that has been its stronghold; the brand speaks of "class-leading new technologies, features and craftsmanship".

The styling is also far better than the current car, which was rather conservative compared with the sharply cut Mark I.

Like the current car, it will also form the platform for several sister models: "Global customers increasingly want smaller cars with outstanding fuel economy, but without sacrificing any of the style, technology, connectivity and driving quality they demand from larger vehicles," said a Ford spokesman.

"Our next generation of C-cars – led by the exciting new Focus – will clearly show that Ford is ready to meet that challenge."

Steve Loader

Model shown, 1.4 16v Veloce at £14,655 OTR including optional Alfa red paint (£410). Range of Official Fuel Economy Figures for the Alfa MiTo range: Extra Urban 53.3 – 78.5 mpg (5.3 – 3.6 l/100km); Urban 33.2 – 47.9 mpg (8.5 – 5.9 l/100km); Combined 43.5 – 62.8 mpg (6.5 – 4.5 l/100km); CO_2 emissions 153 – 119 g/km.

Prices correct at time of going to press.

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Just £169 per month with £169 deposit

36 monthly payments of	£169
On the road price	£11,475
Dealer deposit contribution*	£1,722
Customer deposit	£169
Total amount to be financed	£9,584
Acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment	£4,517
Plus credit facility fee	£139
& option to purchase fee	£10
Total amount payable by customer	£11,018

New Renault Mégane Hatch I-Music 1.6 Special Edition

- Front electric windows
- Parking sensors
- ESP with ASR (Anti skid regulation)
- Front fog lights
- Renault keycard
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Just £199 per month with £1,999 deposit

36 monthly payments of	£199
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Dealer deposit contribution*	£2,599
Customer deposit	£1,999
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Acceptance fee	£99
Optional final payment	£5,287
Plus credit facility fee	£139
& option to purchase fee	£10
Total amount payable by customer	£14,698

Both new I-Music Special Editions include:

- Alloy wheels
- Air conditioning
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† Subject to a 6,000 miles per annum restriction, excess mileage charged extra (6p per mile + VAT)

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mégane Hatch I-Music 1.6 16V 110 are: Urban 30.7 (9.2), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5), Combined 40.9 (6.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 162g/km and for the Clio I-Music 1.2 16V 75 are: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 47.9 (5.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 139g/km.

Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. *Only available with Renault Selections finance. Finance is subject to status, a guarantor may be required, written quotations on request. Finance provided by Renault UK and RCi Financial Services Limited. P.O. Box 493 Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers are available to retail customers only and apply to vehicles ordered by the 31st January 2010 and registered/delivered by 31st March 2010. Renault UK will pay the VAT difference on each vehicle (excluding factory fitted options). These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £395). Examples above exclude cost of optional metallic paint.

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(1) Typical finance example for 4 years 0% APR Typical.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT	AMOUNT FINANCED	FIRST PAYMENT	46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	
£7995	£3198	£4797	£99.94	£99.94	£99.94	NIL	NIL	£7995	0% TYPICAL APR†

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• Air con • CD player • Electric windows

All models include balance of manufacturers warranty, many with metallic paint!

(2) Typical finance example for £1000 finance deposit allowance.

CASH PRICE	DEPOSIT (£1000 Paid by WJ King)	AMOUNT FINANCED	FIRST PAYMENT	58 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	1 FINAL PAYMENT	INTEREST CHARGES	TOTAL CHARGE FOR CREDIT	TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	
£10995	£4000	£6995	£155.57	£155.57	£274.57	£2140.20	£2458.20	£13,453.20	13.1% TYPICAL APR†

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VAUXHALL

(1) 4 years 0% APR is based on a minimum deposit of 40%, available on selected Agila and Corsa models as advertised. (2) Minimum finance amount £5000, minimum finance term 24 months, £1000 finance deposit allowance available on selected Insignia, Meriva and Zafira models as advertised. Finance supplied by Barclays Partner Finance, PO Box 3979, Glasgow G51 1YL. subject to status, over 18's only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Savings shown are against MRRP at time of publication. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles only, whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. All offers available to private individuals. Offers apply to selected pre-registered vehicles purchased before 30th January 2010. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

RenaultKangoo

Even more 'can do'

VAN-based MPVs are the most extreme of 'Marmite Motors' – cars you love or hate.

Inspired originally by the rural French market though, they have become a 'must have' offering for any major motor brand as recession-hit families assess what they really need.

VW, for instance, now sells a seven-seat MPV version of its Caddy van, the Maxi Life, while Fiat, Citroën and Peugeot have been in the business for years.

But the spadework was done by Renault's original Kangoo, landing here in 1999 to underline the French marque's MPV expertise; it sparked the whole MPV market by launching the original Espace in the 1980s, following up with the smaller Scenic.

The Kangoo's no frills interpretation seemed to make even more sense. As a cut-price all-rounder for a self-employed tradesman, it could carry the tools of his trade by day and carry the family in the evenings and at weekends, with access to the rear seats aided by two sliding doors.

Many families also latched onto it as an economical second car/school bus and Renault grew sales further by marketing it to pet lovers and sporting types needing to carry tents, mountain bikes, surfboards and other gear – there was even a Kangoo 4x4 option.

The Kangoo format adds up even more since an all-new model arrived last June. It's still a magnet for the 'Postman Pat' jibes – "Where's the black 'n' white cat then?" was one greeting during this road test – but would-be buyers can be more smug this time around.

For the Kangoo has gone posh without forgetting its roots. It might be based on a van, but the donor chassis now comes from the latest Scenic MPV, boosting ride quality, handling and sophistication against its predecessor, while pegging prices for such a capacious car (£11,438-15,220).

For the Scenic route has given the Kangoo a longer wheelbase for a bigger and more flexible cabin, taking five adults in comfort with three proper seats and acres of space in the back, easily accessed via those sliding doors. Back seats fold in one movement for a completely flat cargo area.

Much attention has been paid to how this ample space is arranged too, though you need to trade up to mid-range Expression trim (as tested) to get the funky stuff like overhead lockers and shelving, folding tables on front seatbacks, multi-position parcel shelf and folding front passenger seat.

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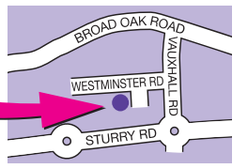

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08 58 Fiesta Style Climate 1.25 16v Zetec 3-Dr Aircon Elc/Wind PAS C/Lock 1 Owner 13000 Miles Ink Blue Met £6,995

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08 58 Ka 1.3 Style Climate Aircon Elc/Wind PAS C/Lock 1 Owner 2000 Miles Only Ink Blue Met £5,995

05 05 Mercedes C270 SE Avantgarde Auto 4-Dr Climate Elc/Pack Alloys Full Black Leather Grey Met 47,000 Miles £12,995

05 05 Focus 1.6 DCi Ghia 5-Dr Climate Control PAS C/Lock Alloys 16,000 Miles Ice Blue Met .£7,995

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08 58 New Focus 1.6 TDCi 110 Zetec 5-Dr Climate Control PAS C/Lock Sat Nav Alloys 24,000 Miles Ocean Blue Met £10,995

£500 OFF
08 08 New Mondeo 2.0 DCi Zetec Diesel Cliamte Elc/ Pack PAS Alloys 21000 Miles Silver Met £12,495

£500 OFF
08 08 New Mondeo 2.0 DCi Zetec Estate Diesel Climate Elc/ Pack PAS Alloys 31000 Miles Grey Met £12,995

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07 07 New Corsa 1.4i 16V SXi 3dr Aircon Elc/Wind Alloys 41000 Miles Black Met....£6,495

08 08 New Focus 1.6 100 Zetec 5-Dr Climate Control PAS C/Lock Alloys 26000 Miles Light Blue Met £9,995

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07 07 New Mondeo 2.0 DCi Titanium X 140 5-Dr Diesel Climate Elc/ Pack PAS Alloys Half Leather 31000 Miles Almond Met ...£12,495

06 06 Honda Jazz 1.4 SE 5-Dr Aircon Elc/Wind PAS C/Lock Alloys 37000 Miles Met Grey £6,495

06 56 V.W Golf 1.6 FSi S 5-Dr Automatic Aircon Elc/Wind Pas Alloys Rev Sens Silver Met History £8,995
03 03 Toyota Rav 4 2.0 Vx 5-Dr Automatic Climate Control Pas Alloys Black Leather 1 Owner 45000 Miles History £6,995
06 06 Mitsubishi Colt 1.5 Di-D Cz2 Diesel 5-Dr Aircon Elc/Wind Pas C/Lock Alloys 17000 Miles Light Blue Met....£4,995
07 07 New Corsa 1.2 Club 3-Dr Aircon Elc/Wind Pas C/Lock Alloys 10000 Miles I Owner Silver Met £6,495
06 55 Astra 1.4 Active 5-Dr Aircon Elc/Win Pas C/Lock 22,000 Miles Silver Met....£6,495
06 06 Mitsubishi Colt 1.5 Sport 5-Dr Aircon Elc/Wind Pas C/Lock Alloys 36000 Miles Light Met Blue....£5,495
09 07 Toyota Avensis 2.2 D T4 Diesel 5dr Climate Elc/Wind Sat Nav Alloys 35000 Miles Met Grey....£10,495
03 53 Mercedes C200 SE Avantgarde Auto 4dr Climate Elc/Pack Alloys Black Met 2 Owners History....£7,495
07 07 Astra 1.7 CDTi 100 5dr Diesel SRi Aircon Elc/Wind C/Lock Alloys 12000 Miles Black Met....£9,495

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in the new Kangoo

However, the dashboard betrays the car's van origins; it works well enough, but you are faced by a grim acreage of plastic.

The situation is rescued partly by the glassy airiness of the Kangoo – though some drivers may not be so keen to be seen and outed as Postman Pat fans.

But they can tell doubters that the Kangoo is a genuinely pleasant drive; I expected traditional French 'door handle cornering' but the Scenic platform keeps it well-sorted.

Two 1.6-litre petrol options are offered, but the 1.5dCi diesel is the big draw. I like the flexibility of this engine and Renault underlines the point by selling it with three outputs: 68PS (67bhp), 86PS (85bhp) and 106PS (104bhp).

The first two have less than 140g/km of CO2 emissions, so they qualify for Renault's eco2 'green label' though still attracting £120/year in road tax and £110 after April 1.

The 86PS unit fitted to the test car proved to be about right for the Kangoo, with a good mix of economy and power for a vehicle that may be worked hard as a family troop carrier or even a commercially-operated courtesy vehicle or taxi.

DrivingPortfolio

RENAULT KANGOO 1.5DCI 86 EXPRESSION £13,585

Driving appeal	★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★★
Road tax	£120/year
Best rival	Citroën Berlingo Multispace/ Peugeot Partner Tepee

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the plasticky dashboard – a depression-inducing fog grey on the test car

NOT SURE: it will ever shake off the Postman Pat jibes

REALLY LIKE: the Kangoo's total practicality – it really is a 'can do' choice.

KENT DEALERS

MOTORLINE

Ashford	0845 129 4488
Canterbury	0845 129 4483
Maidstone	0845 129 2944

LIFESTYLE

Tunbridge Wells	01892 539466

DAVIS

Sevenoaks	01732 455174

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CRÉATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

CITROËN

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (RANGE): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: NEW CITROËN C3 1.6 16V VTi 120HP AUTO EXCLUSIVE: 9.6/29.4, 5.3/53.3, 6.9/40.9, 158. LOWEST: NEW CITROËN C3 1.6HDi 16V 90HP AIRDREAM+: SPECIAL EDITION 4.7/60.1, 3.3/85.6, 3.8/74.3, 99.

WILMOTHS MAIDSTONE 01622 298469
SUTTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 8RD www.wilmothsmaidstone.citroen.co.uk

WILMOTHS ASHFORD 01233 878349
QUANTOCK DRIVE, MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD, KENT TN24 8TU www.wilmothsashford.citroen.co.uk

ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.9 JTDm 16v DUCATI CORSE Q2, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 10200 miles, £14700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, silver over 4000 cars in group stock, 10512 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM SV, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, touring grey metallic, 16200 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

AUDI

A2, 1.4, 2001, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, black, 66439 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A2, 1.4, 2001, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, black, 66439 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A3 SPORTBACK, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior load liner power steering satellite navigation traction control remote central locking, black / black, 45800 miles, £15295, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, TVE SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid trip computer curtain airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, mettalic quartz grey, 77512 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, ES, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, red, 8880 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320CI SE Automatic, hv53ggz, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, parking sensor, abs, air bag, colour coded body, front fog lamps, electric windows, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, cd player, steering wheel audio controls, immobiliser, alarm, head restraints, lumbar support, sports seats, folding rear seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, traction control, metallic paintwork, air conditioning, 17'' alloys, blue, 37000 miles, £8495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320i SE, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering reverse parking aid, blue, 26014 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 323I SE, 2000, abs brakes alloys cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 95120 miles, £3500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 530d SE Auto, 2005, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 73557 miles, £12500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 530i SE, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 55250 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d SE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 73039 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i Sport Auto, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, black, 26500 miles, £28900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i Sport Auto, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, black, 26500 miles, £28900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 630i Sport Auto, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, black, 26500 miles, £28900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X3, Sport Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 41968 miles, £14500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X3, 2.5i SPORT, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking roof bars remote audio controls, grey, 65278 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

X3, Sport Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, silver, 41968 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

X3, 2.5i SPORT, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags remote central locking roof bars remote audio controls, grey, 65278 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

Z3, Z Series Z3 Roadster, p510xgk, remote central locking, immobiliser, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, cd player, metallic paintwork, head restraints, 16'' alloys, blue, 55000 miles, £4499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

Z3, Cabroilet Roadster, 1998, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer, silver, 68951 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Z4, 3.2, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering sports seats remote central locking, black, 28137 miles, £20500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

Z4, 3.2, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering sports seats remote central locking, black, 28137 miles, £20500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, SX 5dr, sm08kxt, central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, power steering, aluminium silver, 6000 miles, £6495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4, 2008, orange, 55 miles, £9985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.6, 2008, silver, 50 miles, £7985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player twin airbags remote central locking, metallic black, 37700 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LACETTI, CDX, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, poly silver, 23500 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2005, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering sports seats, silver, 11416 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE, 2005, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering sports seats, silver, 11416 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX, 2006, air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 12865 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6, 2008, green, 50 miles, £7985, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX, de55 lju, air conditioning, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, abs, twin air bags, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, black, 27600 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX, 2006, air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 12865 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6, 2008, green, 50 miles, £7985, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX, 2006, air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 12865 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6, 2008, green, 50 miles, £7985, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, V6, cx04 gue, air conditioning, full leather, electric seats, heated seats, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, power steering, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, abs, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, front fog lamps, rear spoiler, alloy wheels, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

SEBRING, Limited, ko08mxj, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, stability control, cruise control, multiple airbags, isofix, heated seats, height adjustable seat, electric seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, 18'' alloys, black, 26000 miles, £8999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte 16v, ak07 zpp, air conditioning, power steering, electric front windows, remote central locking, remote alarm, twin air bags, abs, radio cassette, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, beige, 14700 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new. delivery mileage. grp lined. hubbard fridge standby available if required (optional extra). over 50 fridge vans in stock. BHRV.co.uk, white, 15 miles, £9595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fn04zvv, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, refrigerated display, heated display, hand wash facilities. white, 0 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, w173knu, large fridge. large oven. hot & cold water. ambient section. white, 77000 miles, £6995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

C-CROSSER, 5, gf08okk, remote central locking electric windows abs traction control air conditioning power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag cruise control full leather interior full leather interior ltd edition up to 47 mpg the green 4 x 4, beige, 8000 miles, £17795, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C1, 5, lg08fwj, central locking front electric windows abs air conditioning power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag immobiliser, black, 4760 miles, £6995, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C1, Rhythem, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking isofix child seat points, red, 25731 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C1, Rythm, 2008, abs brakes cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering trip computer, black, 10 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C2, Desire, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, artic steel, 11551 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, SX, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, mauve/purple, 33902 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4 HDI L, 2005, cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, arctic steel, 71845 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, Desire, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, artic steel, 11551 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, SX, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, mauve/purple, 33902 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4 HDI L, 2005, cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, arctic steel, 71845 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RELAY, 1100 2.0 HDi Refrigerated Chiller, lv05dxt, grp lined. gah fridge. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 60000 miles, £5995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

RELAY, 3 33 L3 H, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

SIRION, SE 5dr, pn56usg, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, air conditioning, electric windows, abs, multiple airbags, power steering, electric mirrors, cd player, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, alloy wheels, blue, 28000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

SIRION, S, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, red, 12500 miles, £5500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SIRION, S, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, red, 12500 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SIRION, S, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player drivers airbag immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, red, 12500 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, 1.4 Sport 3dr Hatch, wn58wcy, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, drivers airbag, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, sports seats, traction control, space saver spare wheel, tropicalia yellow, 15 miles, £10995, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

500, Pop, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, black, 5000 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points, pasodoble red, 1800 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.2, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 POP, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer twin airbags front remote central locking, white over 4000 cars in group stock, 500 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 16v, 2008, cd player drivers airbag, red, 55 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser mp3 player multiple airbags power steering single cd player trip computer curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, orange, 7138 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.4 SPORT, 2008, abs brakes air con alloys bluetooth car kit cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, calypso orange, 7410 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Mulitijet Active, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking dual passenger seat, grey, 12189 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Dynamic, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 15580 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRAVO, 1.4 dynamic, 2008, abs brakes alls cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player multiple airbags power steering single cd player tinted glass twin airbags curtain airbags, digital grey, 13281 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI ZETEC 5DR, wv58ezh, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric mirrors, electric windows, heated screen, metallic paintwork, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, privacy glass, remote central locking. insurance group:7, please contact alistair mcewen, black, 22820 miles, £10990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCI TITANIUM 110 5DR [DPF], ea58axk, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, remote locking, colour coding body. insurance group:8, blue, 3741 miles, £13995, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, lx02xsb, insurance group 6 alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser power steering radio/cd trip computer 2 owners service history, steel blue, 44000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 5, md06fwo, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking 1 owner service history, tonic blue, 17000 miles, £6000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 3, hg07nre, insurance group 13 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering radio/cd multichanger remote central locking sports seats trip computer service history, performance blue, 32000 miles, £7483, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Style, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 11745 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Style, 2008, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 11677 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, STYLE AUTO, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning automatic transmission cd player central locking metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, ocean blue, 14130 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, ST-3, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation single cd player sound pack split folding rear seats sports seats tinted glass trip computer front parking sensors, orange, 10000 miles, £17000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, Fusion, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer, morello purple, 2925 miles, £9600, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FUSION, Zetec, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking quickclear windscreen, blue, 6000 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FUSION, Zetec Climate 1.6 Duratec En, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint reverse parking aid split folding rear seats traction control trip computer remote central locking auto headlights and wipers, moondust silver, 2444 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FUSION, ZETEC CLIMATE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking quickclear windscreen, amethyst, 18158 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 73,000 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass. **£5,495**

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CARENS, 5, lv56ffa, insurance group 9 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails steering wheel rake adjustment, cool silver, 28000 miles, £6995, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

RIO, 5, lc58rgv, insurance group 4 abs air con alloys central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment, clear silver, 5178 miles, £8695, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

RIO, 5, kk57nze, insurance group 4 abs air conditioning body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag folding rear seats front electric windows height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment, sapphire blue, 8000 miles, £7995, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

LANCER, Equippe, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, grey, 21000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LANCER, Equippe, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, grey, 21000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

NISSAN

350Z, 3.5 V6, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering single cd player sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 31000 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MICRA, E 3dr, sh03 btz, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric front windows, rear wash/wipe, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio cassette, twin air bags, alloy wheels, silver, 37500 miles, £3795, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 3 DOOR, 2004, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player twin airbags remote central locking, blue, 40265 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

206, 5, x332blk, insurance group 4 alarm audio remote control body coloured bumpers climate control drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cassette radio/cd multichanger remote central locking service indicator steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer 2 owners, star silver, 34000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

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307, GT, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloys cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, silver, 13000 miles, £8500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

307, Sport, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 14000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

406, LX HDI 110 diesel cheap tax, 2001, silver, 147985 miles, £1595, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

407, HDi 136 Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation sunroof, red, 79080 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

407, Executive, 2006, silver, 29842 miles, £7600, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PROTON

GEN-2, Gen 2 GLS Step4 Cloth 5dr, gj58hcl, air conditioning, electric windows, cd player, radio, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, power steering, twin air bags, head restraints, velour trim, remote central locking, immobiliser, abs, folding rear seats, rear headrests, 15'' alloys, metallic grey, 4400 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

WIRA, Exi 5dr auto, bf52ura, power steering, air bag, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, head restraints, 15'' alloys, blue, 70000 miles, £2699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Dynamique 16v 5dr, fn07sgz, remote central locking, immobiliser, power steering, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear headrests, front fog lamps, abs, multiple airbags, isofix, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 29000 miles, £6999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

ESPACE, 3.00, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags, black, 44 miles, £27490, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ESPACE, 3.00, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player climate control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights half leather trim heated seats metallic paint leather interior power steering satellite navigation, black, 44 miles, £27500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRAND SCENIC, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 21262 miles, £7300, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

GRAND SCENIC, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points, red, 43000 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, Privilege, 2001, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid trip computer, cosmic grey, 40000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, Privilege, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights half leather trim immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats sun roof trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 53587 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MEGANE, SI Oasis 16v 5dr, fy55 pzo, power steering, air conditioning, panoramic sunroof, electric sunroof, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, powered folding mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, cd player, radio, centre armrest, twin air bags, curtain airbags, auto lighting, alloy wheels, red, 42600 miles, £5495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MEGANE, SI Oasis Expression 16v 3dr, en05 nwr, air conditioning, panoramic sunroof, electric sunroof, power steering, abs, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, powered folding mirrors, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, curtain airbags, auto lighting, silver, 60300 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ROVER

25, iL, 2002, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, blue, 57000 miles, £2100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

25, CITY ROVER SPRITE 1.4 5DR, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint single cd player split folding rear seats twin airbags curtain airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch, aqua, 20773 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

25, Impression, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, gold, 57000 miles, £2300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

25, iL, 2002, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, blue, 57000 miles, £2100, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

25, Impression, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, gold, 57000 miles, £2300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

25, iL, 2002, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, blue, 57000 miles, £2100, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

25, CITY ROVER SPRITE 1.4 5DR, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint single cd player split folding rear seats twin airbags curtain airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch, aqua, 20773 miles, £3000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

25, Impression, 2002, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, gold, 57000 miles, £2300, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, central locking electric windows immobiliser multi cd player, silver, 44 miles, £23000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, red, 44 miles, £23400, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, blue, 44 miles, £23300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, TDI PD 130 SE, 2003, abs brakes alloys cd player diesel immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 53177 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows, silver, 55 miles, £23500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, central locking electric windows immobiliser cd player, silver, 44 miles, £23000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, 1.9, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows, silver, 55 miles, £23500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, TDI PD 130 SE, 2003, abs brakes alloys cd player diesel immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 53177 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ALHAMBRA, Reference, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, silver, 54000 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IBIZA, Sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloys cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, grey, 26000 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.4 TDi reference sport, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering sports seats remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, red, 16474 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IBIZA, Reference, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, grey, 26200 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

IBIZA, Reference, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 23200 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LEON, Reference, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags isofix child seat points, metallic grey, 42100 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LEON, Reference Sport, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats sports seats trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking, grey, 35000 miles, £8800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LEON, CR FR, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, grey, 3000 miles, £16000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

SKODA

FABIA, 5, wv02cys, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors heated front seat height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cassette rear electric windows remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment traction control trip computer, green, 40505 miles, £3695, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

FABIA, TDI PD 80 2, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser power fold mirrors multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, 2007, 17939 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FABIA, 1.2 classic, 2007, abs brakes immobiliser power steering twin airbags, blue, 21000 miles, £4500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FABIA, 1.2 classic, 2007, abs brakes immobiliser power steering twin airbags, blue, 21000 miles, £4500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

JIMNY, JLX MODE SPECIAL EDITION, 2003, abs brakes central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint cd player tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking, silky silver, 35000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JIMNY, JLX MODE SPECIAL EDITION, 2003, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking, silky silver, 35000 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JIMNY, JLX MODE SPECIAL EDITION, 2003, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking, silky silver, 35000 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SWIFT, DDiS, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, black, 75120 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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Brand New **Ford Fiesta** Zetec 1.25 3dr

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Total Amount Payable	Total Charge for Credit inc Purchase fee	Optional Final Payment	
£12684.72	£689.72	£5481	4.9% APR

Mileage based on 12,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charged at 0.06p+VAT per mile

Brand New **Ford Mondeo** Titanium 2.2 TDCi 5dr

Cash Price	Customer Deposit	Deposit Contribution from Ford	Total Deposit	24 Monthly Payments
£18995	£5071	£1000	£6071	£249.01

Total Amount Payable	Total Charge for Credit inc Purchase fee	Optional Final Payment	
£20030.24	£1035.24	£7973	4.9% APR

Mileage based on 12,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charged at 0.08p+VAT per mile

Brand New **Ford Focus** Zetec 1.8 5dr

Cash Price	Customer Deposit	Deposit Contribution from Ford	Total Deposit	24 Monthly Payments
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Total Amount Payable	Total Charge for Credit inc Purchase fee	Optional Final Payment	
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By **STEVE LOADER**

UK PLC recovery set back further by the big freeze

BUSINESS leaders in Kent have issued a depressing new year health check on the UK economy – the patient could flatline for 12 months with recovery checked by the recent big freeze.

The Institute of Directors (IoD), speaking for business leaders and entrepreneurs across the county, drew on various factors to forecast negligible GDP growth at just 0.5 per cent in 2010, and 1.5 per cent in 2011. Its prognosis is a shock though after upbeat results for Christmas trading (the best since 2005) and the South East manufacturing sector (sales up 12 per cent in 2009).

Nevertheless, acting chairman of the Kent IoD branch, Andrew Metcalf, said there was a risk of a double or even a triple dip before real economic recovery.

"We are currently experiencing what is being described as a 'treacle economy', rendered slow and sticky partly by a sense of stagnation as we wait for the general election," he said.

"With very limited growth it would suggest the economy looks set to bump along the bottom with little upturn. It could be described as an L-shaped recovery.

"January is notoriously difficult for many businesses, as they struggle with poor cash flow and sales as a result of the festive break.

"The big freeze, which caused significant difficulties for thousands of businesses already finding the economic climate tough, couldn't have come at a worse time.

"Money supply for many companies remains very weak and it is difficult to believe a sustained recovery can be established until this situation changes."

Even as a general election result clears a restraint on recovery, it creates another, warned IoD chief economist Graeme Leach, in the form of government belt-tightening, though he suggested this would be less negative if it comes via lower spending rather than higher taxation.

FORECAST: IoD's Andrew Metcalf

He added: "We are very doubtful of a sharp bounce back in 2010. It would seem that de-leveraging and debt reduction are the priorities for consumers and companies and until this balance sheet adjustment process fully unwinds we don't believe sustainable growth will occur. Yes, there could be an occasional spurt of activity, but the next two years look pretty glum."

However, retailers claimed a serious return of consumer confidence over Christmas and New Year.

The Retail Sales Monitor produced by the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and accountancy/audit giant KPMG reported that UK shop sales rose 4.2 per cent against December, 2008, and, when other factors were taken account of, this represented actual growth of six per cent with food sales, clothing and footwear leading the charge, while internet, mail order and phone sales shot up 26.5 year on year in December.

"These are stronger figures than we dared hope for," said BRC director general Stephen Robertson. "This is the best total sales growth for a December since 2005, and goes well beyond just making up for the sales fall the sector suffered a year ago."

But he warned: "With customers now reacquainting themselves with concerns about jobs and tax rises there's a risk a healthy December may be only a temporary respite on the painful road to recovery."

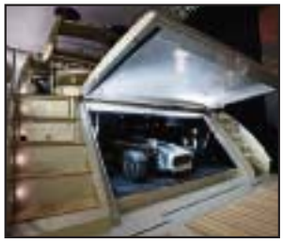
KPMG's retail spokesman Helen Dickinson said Christmas, 2009, allowed strong retailers to "strut their stuff" and she expected further figures to highlight those who got it right and those that did not, but she was also cautious about the year ahead.

One of the traders 'who got it right' was department store chain House of Fraser, which has two of its most modern outlets in Kent – at Maidstone and Bluewater – and saw sales rise 7.1 per cent in the eight weeks ahead of January 2.

It also enjoyed its biggest ever Christmas week, with sales on Boxing Day up 27 per cent against 2008.

Retailing colossus, Tesco, which holds a third of the supermarket sector, also blew away gloom by hoisting sales five per cent in the six weeks ahead of 9 January – two per cent better than City predictions.

Optimists will take most heart though from legal firm Thomas Eggar's Manufacturing Index, which focused on the South East's top 100 manufacturers to show an average growth of 12 per cent in sales last year.



SHIPSHAPE: Caterham onboard

Glamorous Caterham is small change for wealthy

SPORTS car maker Caterham and super yacht builder Sunseeker have allied to create the ultimate expression of the millionaire lifestyle.

The Dartford-based maker of the Caterham Seven currently has one of the two-seat performance icons stowed in the garage area at the stern of a Sunseeker Predator 108 at the London International Boat Show 2010.

Usually reserved for a small sports boat, the manufacturers are suggesting it could also be used to enable well-heeled buyers to make a doubly glamorous arrival in the harbours of Monaco, St Tropez and Cannes.

But while the Predator's part in this display would cost more than £7 million, the Kent sports car – based on the legendary Lotus Seven – starts from just £12,995. Small change.

LORD OF THE MANOR: Dominic and his wife Stephanie bought the property in 2004

Business award will allow hidden gem to continue its growth

By **JANE CONNOLLY**
jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk

OVER the last three years, the Secret Gardens of Sandwich have blossomed into one of Kent's leading tourism businesses.

The gardens were named joint winners in the leisure and tourism category at the KOS Media £1 Million Business Challenge Awards. Alongside co-winner Chatham Historic Dockyard, the attraction was awarded a significant marketing, PR and advertising package to help support its continued growth.

Husband and wife Dominic and Stephanie Parker bought the neglected property, The Salutation, in 2004. Since then they have turned the rundown manor house and overgrown gardens into a blooming tourist attraction.

"It was an absolute shock to win, to be honest," Mr Parker said.

"It was a complete surprise and we were very honoured to be chosen alongside Chatham Historic Dockyard, which is a tremendous organisation. We were very thrilled to have been included with such excellent businesses."

When the Parkers began the multi-million-pound project they knew about the pedigree of the house, but had no idea what an outstanding garden they would uncover.

The Salutation was commissioned by the Farrer brothers in 1911, who wanted a restful place to enjoy the coastal air.

To achieve this, they employed renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and the result is a beautiful house that boasts a complementary relationship with its gardens.

Also designed by Lutyens, the grounds feature strong architectural lines, tree-lined avenues and framing effects achieved with the use of archways and hedges.

WELCOME HOME: The Salutation in Sandwich saw a 100 per cent rise in tourist numbers

Lutyens was a frequent collaborator with the legendary horticulturalist Gertrude Jekyll and her influence can be seen in the stunning design of the grounds.

After all their hard work, the prize offered by the Business Challenge Awards will help the Parkers to take their business even further.

Humdinger

"It will go a long way towards confirming our position on the map," Mr Parker said.

"It will considerably help to raise awareness of us and what we're trying to do here with the restoration project. I also think it will be fantastic for Sandwich, which is a hitherto unsung gem within Kent."

Their third summer since opening to the public has been the most successful yet, with visitor numbers up by 100 per cent on last year and the future looking good for continued growth.

"I do think we have started from a low base because we are a very old property," Mr Parker said. "The gardens used to be open 25 years ago and we have fallen off the map. It will take a long time for everybody in the gardening fraternity to be aware of us and to consider us alongside the likes of Sissinghurst Castle Garden, which is a humdinger of a garden.

"We have received compliments to the effect that people think our gardens are nicer, but different. We hope to give Sissinghurst a run for its money."

Find out more about the Secret Gardens of Sandwich by visiting the website at www.thesecretgardens.co.uk.

To see this, search 'garden' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Dominic Parker explains the transformation of the Secret Garden back to its former glory

Santander re-brand sends out message to community

SPANISH-based banking giant Santander is giving charities a boost as a way to publicise its re-branding of 29 branches of the former Abbey, and Bradford and Bingley, building societies across Kent.

The bank is asking its customers to decide which charities are to benefit in their local area – up to £7,250 will be distributed to local good causes and £250,000 across the UK under the Community Chest scheme.

Santander launched the promotion to strengthen relationships in communities served by the relevant branches, and raise the profile of those charitable organisations seen as making a difference in their areas.

Every branch has nominated three local causes and customers visiting a branch from now until February 26 can vote for their favourite – with each winner receiving a share of the pot.

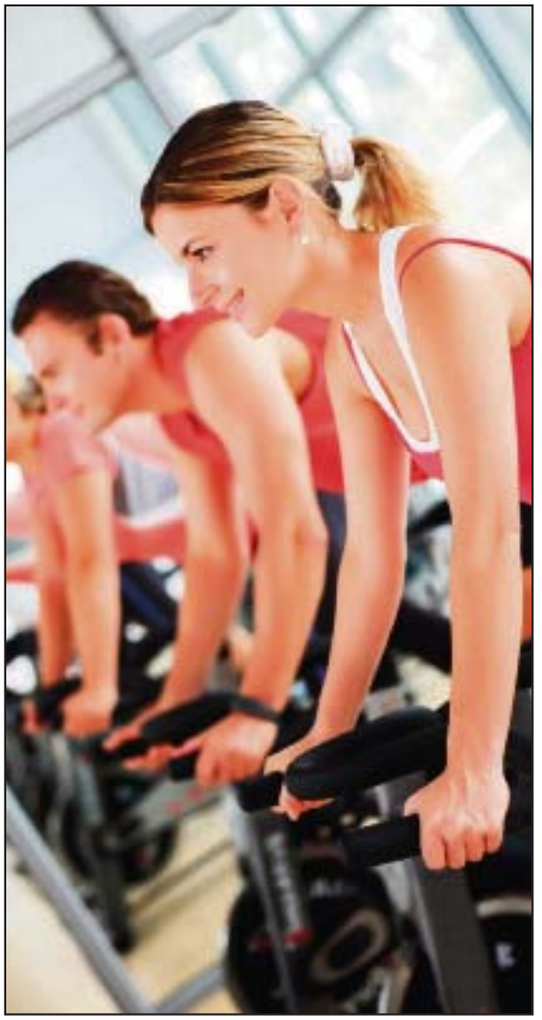
Santander community relations manager Christianne Carrick said: "It's part of Santander's ongoing commitment to local communities, with more than £5 million donated to good causes last year."

The bank, founded in Spain in 1857, has grown rapidly across Europe in recent years and claims to be the most efficient now operating in the UK.

It operates two retail businesses here: the re-branded Santander, formed from the Abbey, and Bradford and Bingley – acquired in 2004 and 2008 respectively – and the Alliance and Leicester, also taken over in 2008.

The two chains have more than 1,300 branches, around 4,500 cash machines and deliver retail and corporate banking services to 25 million customers.

Corporate health can equate to corporate wealth



WORD TO THE WISE: Anna Daniels (below) believes that keeping your workforce healthy benefits your company

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

NEW year brings a flurry of resolutions to get fit and lose weight, but such individual efforts are often doomed to failure.

But fitness experts say there is a strong argument for businesses to start helping staff to stick to the regime to make them fitter for work and to help battle stress, especially with a recession still on.

"The effect staff have on a business is huge," said Anna Daniels, managing director of the Daniels Fitness Group, in response to the perennial rash of failed resolutions.

"A healthy, happy workforce has been proven to be more productive, take less time off sick and individuals are less likely to look for a new job – as many will be doing in January."

Her organisation has worked with companies in Kent and the South East for 20 years. She added: "Whether you have two or 2,000 on your payroll, don't underestimate the influence employees have on the success of your company – corporate health really does equate to corporate wealth."

Programmes can be be everything from a monthly information seminar on healthy eating to a weekly activity such as a Pilates or a self-defence class.

High-flying fitness experts at the RAF have also chipped in with cost-effective no-nonsense new year tips.

Corporal Simon Wray, a former TV Gladiator winner and training instructor said the RAF Fit for Life regime can be downloaded from the RAF website, tailored to ability and followed anywhere, with no need for expensive gym memberships or equipment.

Getting into shape could also combat stress at a time when the recession is adding to the levels faced by workers, according to research from Clydesdale Bank.

Two thirds (66 per cent) of those surveyed say the recession had affected their working lives, with nearly one in five (18.8) working up to 10 hours more per week.

More than one in five (20.8) workers across the region say they are now more stressed at work, and nearly half (49.7) believe it is now harder to achieve a balance between work and their private lives.

Younger employees appear to suffer most from increased anxiety due to the recession, with more than a third of those aged 16-24 admitting to feeling more stressed at work

Paul Saunders, of Clydesdale Bank's Financial Solutions Centres in Kent, said: "It is important for economic recovery that the UK's workers are focused on helping their business to survive.

"However, it is essential that employers ensure they are offering their employees as much support as possible, to help them achieve a balance that results in happy and productive employees."

KEY TIPS RAF FIT FOR LIFE

1. 30 minutes of exercise, three to five times a week is a good amount of exercise and realistic too. Break this down into manageable 10 minute slots.
2. Combine a full range of stomach exercises with aerobic exercise to help build up that six-pack or washboard stomach.
3. Don't just focus on one area. Do a range of exercises to tone your whole body.
4. Warm up – avoid static stretching, perform dynamic stretching to warm up specific muscles for the exercise you're about to undertake.
5. Cool down – perform static stretching. Hold the stretch for at least 20 seconds.

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/04/2012
OD: £1,304

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/01/2012
OD: £1,039

MORTGAGE BOX
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.19% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/12/2011
OD: £1,529

FIRST ACTIVE – RBS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.29% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2013
OD: £829

OTHER

NORTHERN ROCK
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 01/03/2012
OD: £1,030

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.69% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,030

MORTGAGE BOX
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.79% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,010

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 1.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,030

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

OPEN MARKET ANNUITY RATES FOR MATURING PENSION FUNDS – PER £10,000

* ASSUME 50% INCOME FOR SPOUSE OF SAME AGE ON ANNUITANTS DEATH, PAYABLE MONTHLY IN ADVANCE WITHOUT ESCALATION, RATE IS PER £10,000 OF FUND MATURED AND ASSUME THE CLIENT IS IN GOOD HEALTH

MALE AGED 60		FEMALE AGED 60	
CANADA LIFE	£549	CANADA LIFE	£537
LEGAL & GENERAL	£543	AVIVA	£527
AVIVA	£521	LEGAL & GENERAL	£517
AEGON SE	£511	STANDARD LIFE	£496
PRUDENTIAL	£507	PRUDENTIAL	£496

MALE AGED 65		FEMALE AGED 65	
CANADA LIFE	£601	CANADA LIFE	£585
LEGAL & GENERAL	£595	AVIVA	£570
AVIVA	£572	LEGAL & GENERAL	£564
PRUDENTIAL	£571	PRUDENTIAL	£555
STANDARD LIFE	£564	STANDARD LIFE	£550

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Gardner Croft's new family addition

CANTERBURY solicitors' firm Gardner Croft has welcomed family law solicitor Jo Illingworth (pictured left).

She joins a team there specialising in dealing with family breakdown and trauma.

All of the solicitors in the department are members of the family law body Resolution – previously the Solicitors' Family Law Association – with Eileen Sutton a family law panel member and a Resolution accredited specialist in family law. Both she and Daniel Bennett are also trained collaborative lawyers.

Away from the office Jo enjoys cooking, running and cycling along the Kent coast.

MOOR TO COME: Gary Wardrope, of Get Travelling, says the cruising business has sunk the 'staycation' trend despite the economic gloom

County is bucking the trend for 'staycations'

FOR an industry dealing in good times, 2009 was a gloomy year for the holiday trade.

It started with the spectacular crash of holiday giant XL still fresh in the memory, saw a succession of further travel trade casualties and spawned a new buzz word, 'staycation', to describe how recession-hit Brits were swapping holidays abroad for traditional breaks at home.

But Tunbridge Wells-based specialist travel agent Get Travelling and subsidiary Get Cruising are having nothing of the holiday humbug.

Now in its second year of operation, owner Gary Wardrope says the business virtually doubled turnover year on year, despite the overall UK travel trade being in the doldrums.

It sold some £1.2 million of holidays during 2009, took on three more staff, and launched a new venture called Get Skiing.

Meanwhile, the Get Cruising side benefited

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

from a boom in the UK cruise market with a record 1.55 million Brits taking a holiday afloat during 2009 – the biggest cruise ship in the world was launched in December with another being built – while river cruising also leapt in popularity.

Committed

But Gary Wardrope says the business, operating out of The Pantiles – Tunbridge Wells' own famous tourist spot – is convinced that being based in Kent, and customer demand for quality personal service, have been keys to this success.

"Perhaps it's the proximity of sea and airports and the Channel Tunnel link, but people here seem more committed to travelling abroad for their holidays than in some other parts of the country.

"We have seen little evidence of the so-called 'staycation' trend among Kent holidaymakers.

"Travellers from Kent want and value the expert, personal advice and assistance that an independent specialist company like ours can provide.

"That commitment to and love of travel is part of the reason why we set up shop here in the first place."

Get Travelling is now ranked as one of the UK's top three independent travel agents in the UK and was P&O's 2009 Agent of the Year and a finalist in the West Kent Business Excellence (Best New Business) Awards.

The company expects to continue bucking the trend with January and February being big months for cruise bookings and accounting for some 12 per cent of the year's sales.

"Demand for cruise holidays continues to increase and I am confident we can grow the existing business by at least another 50 per cent," said Gary.

'Wheelie' good idea pays off for student

FED up with six months' job-hunting in competition with thousands of other unemployed graduates, Charmaine Kemp sketched out plans for her own business.

Armed with a business and marketing degree from Greenwich University and her studies in graphic design, she researched a mobility business without the overheads of a shop premises, thereby allowing savings to be passed on to customers.

GOOD MOVE: Charmaine Kemp founded company Wheelie Good Mobility

With a student debt and no income, she then turned to The Princes Trust to fund her embryonic business and got the green light after a rigorous Dragons' Den type presentation to Maidstone Chamber of Commerce.

The trust – which specialises in practical and financial support to the young people who need it most – was so impressed that she received funds in three weeks rather than the usual three to four months and went on to launch Wheelie Good Mobility in the face of a severe recession.

One year on, the Dartford firm is thriving in the business of supplying and recycling mobility products such as scooters, wheelchairs and associated equipment, usually at dramatically lower prices than those charged by High Street locations.

Charmaine said price has become crucial in recession; many of her customers are on disabled living allowances anyway.

INSOLVENCY experts at Bridge Business Recovery have begun realising the assets of Swanley-based civil engineers M Holleran Ltd and related plant hire company Oranmore Plant Ltd.

The former subsidiaries of the Holleran Group employed 240 people throughout the UK and had a combined turnover of £60 million, but went into administration last month due to problems caused by the recession. Remaining subsidiaries of the Holleran Group continue to trade as normal, but all staff at the stricken companies have been made redundant.

Andrew Duncan, of Bridge Business Recovery, which has offices at Tunbridge Wells, said: "We are extremely disappointed that we were not in a position to sell these businesses as going concerns – especially for the many people who relied on them for their livelihoods.

"Sadly, their financial positions and the nature of the construction industry meant the only option open to us was an orderly realisation of their assets."

CROSS-Channel ferry operator LD Lines reported a significant rise in freight vehicles carried on its Dover-Boulogne route during December, 2009, of 3,314 units – almost double that in November.

Since the company re-established the Boulogne route in February, 2009, the service has now carried 16,184 freight units and the year-end surge coincided with a switch, from mid-November, from a fast ferry to a conventional vessel with more capacity.

"We are very encouraged by the early response from freight customers to the capacity increase we have introduced to the Boulogne route, and clearly the conventional ferry is meeting demand and establishing the service in a very positive way," said LD Lines' MD Christophe Santoni.

"The exclusivity we provide the haulage industry with via this route, combined with the extra capacity available through the Port of Boulogne's new Hub Port terminal, is clearly developing our business and we look forward to these trends continuing throughout 2010 and beyond."

Boulogne's 20-acre Hub Port opened in September, 2009, and heralded the start of 240 million euros investment over the coming decade.

SLR Consulting has completed four overseas waste projects.

The environmental consultancy, which has a regional office in Maidstone, has been involved with two high-profile contracts in Australia assessing innovative methods for the treatment of municipal solid waste (MSW) and the feasibility of adapting them for use in the UK.

SLR has also been involved with a proposed biogas plant in China and a new generation of landfill facilities near Manila in the Philippines.

SLR Maidstone office manager Nigel Cronin said: "We are recognised as being the leading environmental consultancy in the UK waste sector and this reputation is helping us secure projects like these. With increasing legislation and financial incentives for projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions we are well placed to capitalise on this growing area."

NEWLY-opened Buttercup Cupcakes at Bluewater Shopping Centre has the perfect treat to follow those seasonal excesses – the Detox Cupcake. The new coffee and desserts 'drop-in' outlet is the third outlet to be opened by Buttercup Cupcakes' founder Donna Egan.

New team means business

KOS Media has built an array of successful titles, websites and brands since the company launched in 2002 with the multiple award-winning Kent on Sunday. One of those is the businessforkent brand, now set for a major upgrade in print, online and in developing media. Here we spotlight the leaders of a new-look team and their objectives in a challenging year for Kent's business community

BUSINESS for Kent has a new team for a new year – one in which we all hope to see a clear end to this damaging recession.

It's a line-up designed to work closely with the county's commercial community as it seeks to build new prosperity, after taking some big hits over the past couple of years.

Newly-appointed business editor Steve Loader is already familiar to you as the KOS Media group's motoring editor and will continue on that road, but he is also looking forward to the fresh challenge.

"I've covered many different business sectors before, but never had a roving commission like this," he said.

"Our aim is to create a business service that can be followed across an ever-developing range of media for local, regional and, where relevant, global issues – we don't want it to be parochial. It will evolve with new features and pagination added to our weekend business sections and upgrades arriving for the www.businessforkent.co.uk website, which will be refreshed more and more each day – important business stories should not have to wait."

Head of business Christine Davidson said: "Businessforkent.co.uk will soon be viewed as an essential news source for business owners, managers and directors across the county.

"Whether via print, online or even social media, executives should be able to take news any way they wish to, anytime day or night.

"Today, news is immediate and, in business, maybe even more critical. No-one today should have to wait weeks for news, as with some of the more traditional media in this county.

"Local, regional and national companies and brands will use businessforkent to reach out across one of the most prosperous and populous counties in the UK; we will always provide the most competitive and effective media platform, working in close partnership with our customers."

The last point was echoed by Clifford Larkin-Smith, who joins KOS Media in the newly-created post of account manager – business.

He said: "The media is a partnership where we want to invest time and effort to help our customers and clients – we develop a long-term strategy that works time and time again, than settle for a 'quick hit' revenue approach.

"We need to be an extending arm of their business, but we can only be that if we understand exactly what they do and what their objectives are. It's about listening, going away and then coming back with workable options and strategies.

"We are also fortunate this new team and support staff combine experience across a huge range of industries on both the commercial and editorial side; we should have a good handle on all sectors but, if there is a gap, expect us to listen and learn fast."

To see this clip search 'Dockyard' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Chatham's Historic Dockyard was one of the winners of the KOS Media Business Challenge

UNITED FRONT: KOS Media's new business team (from left to right) Clifford Larkin-Smith, Steve Loader and Christine Davidson

STEVE LOADER

STEVE started his editorial career in his home town of Whitstable, going on to work in London and across southern England and parts of Europe.

"A friend of mine says the variety and experiences of journalism may be the best education you can have and I can't argue; there are uplifting and tragic stories to be told and high and lows to endure, but it's never boring and the range of experiences is vast.

"When I crossed to PR for 10 years, I found a whole set of new challenges and experiences; fellow 'scribes' had told me PR was a doddle, but I seemed to work just as hard finding the right stories to keep writers and media happy."

After a period with London consultancies, Steve went freelance and then co-founded his own agency, before ultimately deciding to return to his first love, pitching up as motoring editor with KOS Media when the company launched in 2002.

He enjoys music and travel and "bringing up an energetic six-year-old son".

CHRISTINE DAVIDSON

CHRISTINE has worked in business-to-business media for more than 17 years, producing trade magazines and publications, online brands and masterminding major trade exhibitions and conferences around the world, using flagship venues like London's Earl's Court Olympia and Birmingham NEC.

More recently she applied her wide-ranging sales and marketing skills as a senior consultant and trouble-shooter to media companies in the UK, USA and Middle East.

"Travelling and short-term projects were glamorous for a while," she said. "But I then looked for something to get my teeth into and was drawn back to Kent, where I have lived most of my life.

"I was particularly attracted to KOS Media by its proactive reputation, and was appointed in 2007 to develop the highly successful jobsforkent and educationforkent brands. There is an obvious synergy between those sectors and business to business, so I now welcome the challenge of developing businessforkent to deliver an equally successful portfolio of products."

CLIFFORD LARKIN-SMITH

CLIFFORD grew up in London and Surrey and started his career in advertising with major newspaper series, The Croydon Advertiser, but has gone on to posts across all media sectors and with publishing houses Emap Maclaren and Quantum Business Media.

More recently, he headed sales at a major property publication in the Canary Islands and has also worked on the editorial side as a restaurant critic and feature writer.

"I love the buzz and atmosphere of the restaurant trade and whole dining experience, and I'm also a film buff and live music fan – with eclectic tastes in both," he said.

Clifford owns two guitars and has played and sung in bands in the past, but added: "Though I go to live performances when I can, I get too little time to practice and perform myself now."

Part of the reason could be a love of the job: "I enjoy the challenge of researching and outlining an advertising and marketing strategy that really works, making the most of the disciplines I have acquired over a varied career."

AIMING HIGH: Sevenoaks Suns are one game away from the National Cup final

Suns hoop for cup final spot

ONLY Nottingham Wildcats stand between Sevenoaks Suns and a place in the Sureshot under-18 National Cup final, with the sides set to meet tomorrow afternoon.

The Suns, who have already won at Brixton Topcats and Northants Lightning to get this far, now have home advantage for the semi-final which pits them against the fourth-placed team in the EBL North Division.

Head coach Len Busch has a fully-fit squad at his disposal and is intent on guiding his charges to the final while avenging last year's painful defeat to the same opposition.

He said: "The under-18 side has a real chance to go all the way in the National Cup so they're our priority. Last year Nottingham knocked our under-18s out of the play-offs but they're a different team this year. They're a bit younger, they're not as strong, but essentially they're a bit of an unknown for us.

"Training has been difficult [because of the snow] and we only got together for one practice session last week but our preparation for this game has been better."

The Suns, second in the South Division, still have designs on a league and cup double and have played two games less than leaders Brixton.

Tomorrow's tip-off against Nottingham is at 1pm at the Sevenoaks School Sports Centre.

The senior team are without a game this weekend, while the men's side are due back in action again next Saturday.

Four games in one day for Oaks ladies

Gruelling indoor test as club play catch-up

By STEVE TERVET

LAST weekend's snowfall means Sevenoaks ladies face a long, gruelling day of indoor hockey in Division One at Croydon's Whitgift School.

Oaks, who were due to play twice today followed by two further games tomorrow, must now contest four games in nine hours after they drew the short straw in the condensed reshuffle.

SEVENOAKS HOCKEY FIXTURES

TODAY

MEN: Sevenoaks 4A XI v BBHC 3rd XI (10.30am); Gravesham v Sevenoaks 4th XI (6pm); Sutton Valence v Sevenoaks 5th XI (10am); Sevenoaks 6th XI v Marden Russets 5th XI (6pm)

LADIES: Liverpool Sefton v Sevenoaks Indoor (10.15am); Sevenoaks Indoor v Old Loughtonians (2.30pm); Bradford Wakefield v Sevenoaks Indoor (4.45pm); Sevenoaks Indoor v Sutton Coldfield (7.45pm); Sevenoaks 2nd XI v Gore Court 1st XI (1.30pm); Old Bordenians 1st XI v Sevenoaks 3A XI (10.30am); Wapping 2nd XI v Sevenoaks 3rd XI (12pm); Cliftonville 1st XI v Sevenoaks 4th XI (12pm); Sevenoaks 5th XI v Holcombe 4th XI (1.30pm)

TOMORROW

LADIES: Aldridge v Sevenoaks Indoor (1.30pm); Sevenoaks Indoor v Reading (6pm)

With all their rivals playing just three times, a good day could see Sevenoaks storm ahead, but two or three defeats would leave them in a perilous position heading into Sunday's fixtures.

Captain Lynn Dawson, while disappointed to be facing such a daunting task, is confident her squad has more than enough to emerge unscathed.

She said: "We're in for an extremely long day – everybody else will play three games whereas we've got to play four.

"If you lose a couple of games in indoor hockey you could easily get relegated, so our first call is to make ourselves safe and secure a top-six finish. If we get a good start, there's no reason why we can't go on and push for promotion."

The top three teams from Division One will compete in the Premier Division in 2010, while the bottom three face relegation to Division Two.

Such fine margins mean a good start is imperative, and Cathy Gilliat-Smith's inclusion is a huge boost for Oaks, who also blood under-17 stars Grace Lovegrove and Lottie Willis.

First up for Sevenoaks are Liverpool Sefton at 10.15am, with their final game of the day, against Sutton Coldfield, starting at 7.45pm. They then take on Aldridge and Reading tomorrow before the action concludes next Sunday.

The men's indoor side, meanwhile, travel to Hull next weekend to compete in a shortened Division Two campaign after last Saturday's games in Bristol were all called off.

TEST: Sevenoaks ladies will play four games in today's indoor hockey programme and (inset) ex-England ace Cathy Gilliat-Smith's inclusion will give the club a huge boost

Pictures: NICK DUNGAN AND ADY KERRY

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

CRITICAL: Tunbridge Wells must start winning matches soon if they are to escape the drop

Avoiding drop vital to club's future, says Wells captain

TUNBRIDGE Wells could not have been handed a much tougher start to the year as they travel to second-placed Kings & Alleyns in Kent/Sussex Division Two today.

Having won only one of their last four games, Wells went into Christmas on the back of an 8-0 battering at Folkestone and today's opponents will prove equally formidable.

Club captain Chris Page acknowledged the necessity to start putting results together in order to avoid a second successive relegation and insisted his players have what it takes to survive.

He said: "We've only been losing games by one or two goals so we're competing and that means our destiny between now and the end of the season is in our own hands. At the moment I'm not worried about relegation but if we lose three or four on the spin then that will change.

"It's vital we stay in the league because we're already competing with Sevenoaks, East Grinstead, Maidstone and Sutton Valence for players. If we go down, that will become even harder."

Wells may look to bring in some fresh faces before the transfer window closes at the end of January as they start the second half of the season only three places and five points from bottom spot.

In East Hockey's Division One South, fifth meet sixth as Wells' ladies play host to a Letchworth outfit three points behind them. Victory could take Wells as high as third but defeat would see them leapfrogged by the Hertfordshire side.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS HOCKEY FIXTURES

TODAY

MEN: Kings & Alleyns 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells 1st XI (1pm); Kings & Alleyns 2nd XI v Tunbridge Wells 2nd XI (11.30am); Gillingham Anchorians 2nd XI v Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI (1.30pm); Tunbridge Wells 4th XI v Herne Bay 4th XI (2.30pm)

LADIES: Tunbridge Wells 1st XI v Letchworth 1st XI (1pm); Blackheath 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells 2nd XI (1.30pm); Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI v Gravesend 2nd XI (11.30am); Gravesend 4th XI v Tunbridge Wells 4th XI (1.15pm); Tunbridge Wells 5th XI v Edenbridge 1st XI (4pm); Wellcome 2nd XI v Tunbridge Wells 6th XI (1.30pm)

NON-LEAGUE PREVIEW By Steve Tervet

Back after the big freeze

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

Canvey Island v Cray Wanderers

CRAY find themselves back in the relegation zone after going four games without a win, although they secured a creditable point at Dartford on Boxing Day.

Their defensive record remains the worst in the division and Canvey know a win could take them into a play-off position, despite losing their last three and conceding 11 goals in the process.

Hendon v Dartford

WHILE the Darts have dropped points at Princes Park in recent weeks, they continue to boast a perfect record on the road with 10 wins from as many outings.

Tony Burman's side appear to hold an unassailable advantage at the top, leading their closest challengers by 11 points with four games in hand, and they were 5-0 victors when the sides met on September 5.

Margate v Ashford Town (Middlesex)

MARGATE manager Mark Butler takes on his old club hoping to record his first home win since arriving at Hartsdown Park.

The Blues, who have so far failed to record back-to-back wins under Butler's leadership, are without the suspended John Keister and Lloyd Blackman, although Anthony Joseph is fit and should play some part.

Luke Wheatley is set to start in central defence following Charlie Read's return to Ebbsfleet United after a loan spell.

Tonbridge Angels v Maidstone United

LONGMEAD Stadium plays host to what is traditionally a feisty local derby, with the hosts desperate to arrest their recent slump and stop leaking goals.

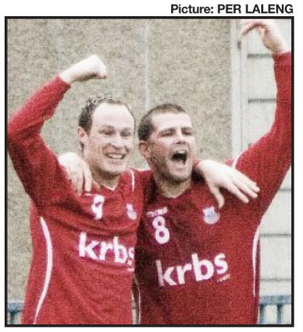
Angels have shipped 41 already this season, including 10 in their last three outings, and are without a win in six games.

Lee Minshull and Kirk Watts miss the game through suspension, but Carl Rook has recovered from a back injury and should start up front with Paul Booth.

The Stones are up to seventh, having won their last two on the road and are likely to be unchanged from their 1-0 win at Margate two weeks ago.

Picture: STEVE TERRELL

Picture: PER LALENG



DERBY: Tonbridge Angels (left in blue) take on Maidstone (in gold) and Whitstable will be happy to take to the pitch after cancellations caused by the recent freezing weather

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

Ashford Town v Worthing

SHOULD this game go ahead, it will be Ashford's first at home since October 24, with the Homelands pitch taking a battering in recent weeks.

Strikers Paul Jones and Joe Fuller and defender Toby Ashmore are all doubtful, although Tom Murphy could make his home debut having signed on work experience from Gillingham.

Worthing remain second but have won just one in five on the road.

Burgess Hill Town v Sittingbourne

TWO sides separated only by goal difference meet at Leylands Park, with both set on a play-off place and playing catch-up after a series of postponements.

The Brickies have won three on the spin in all competitions and are at full strength today, although defender Matt Bourne is one booking away from a ban.

Burgess Hill could prove a tough nut to crack at home, having lost only once in eight games.

Chatham Town v Merstham

ALEX O'Brien's Chats have not played since their 4-0 Boxing Day defeat at Sittingbourne and a win would see them leapfrog today's opponents.

Ben Payne and John Wilfort miss today's match (one-game bans), although Lee Barnett and Brad Potter are nearing full fitness after ankle injuries and could feature. Merstham, however, are unbeaten in their last three away games.

Dulwich Hamlet v Ramsgate

RAMSGATE have been in red-hot form recently, losing only once in 11 outings, although a goalless draw against Whitstable slowed their play-off charge.

Jim Ward's side have trained on the beach to beat the weather and a full squad will travel to London today. Dulwich have struggled for results at home this season, failing to win nine of their 10 fixtures at Champion Hill.

Fleet Town v Whitstable Town

THE Oystermen this week trained for the first time since Christmas, having seen the big freeze twice call off their derby game with Ramsgate.

Manager Mark Munday, who played in the 0-0 Boxing Day draw at Southwood, is likely to revert to the bench this afternoon with the extended break allowing several players to regain match fitness.

Godalming Town v Folkestone Invicta

INVICTA continue to defy the odds at the top of Ryman South and they could go 16 points clear of Worthing with a win today.

James Everitt (hamstring), Jimmy Dryden (knee) and Liam Dixon are all fit, while midfielder Lee Spiller could make his second debut for the club, although Neil Cugley may name an unchanged side for the 12th consecutive game. Godalming sit third but have failed to win in their last three outings.

Deres close in on championship rivals

Picture: TONY GRAY

ON TRACK: Erith & Belvedere (in blue)

KENT LEAGUE PREVIEW

WITH three of the Premier Division's top four sides in cup action this afternoon, Erith & Belvedere can steal a march on their title rivals by beating Norton Sports.

The Deres are just a point behind Herne Bay, and with a 3-1 win over leaders Faversham Town already under their belt this season, their championship credentials have stood up to the test so far.

Hythe Town may sit seventh but with up to four games in hand over all the sides above them, Scott Porter's side will still count themselves among the major contenders.

They welcome fifth-placed Beckenham Town to Reachfields this afternoon knowing three points would see them climb two places and onto the shoulder of Sevenoaks Town.

Erith Town and Deal Town meet in mid-table while Tunbridge Wells travel to face an unpredictable Sporting Bengal side who average more than two goals per game, but have also conceded 40 more than any other side.

Milton & Fulston, and Sevenoaks, will hope to finally play their Kent Senior Trophy second round game at Bourne Park, having seen the weather thwart their previous attempts.

The only other County League team left in the competition, Hollands & Blair, have the toughest tie of the round as they face Faversham at Salters Lane.

For both Faversham and Herne Bay – who host Holmesdale – the league remains the priority, but Greenwich Borough and Lordswood, who meet in the day's early kick-off, would both welcome a run to the final.

KENT LEAGUE FIXTURES TODAY

(All games kick off at 3pm unless otherwise stated):

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Erith & Belvedere v Norton Sports; Erith Town v Deal Town; Hythe Town v Beckenham Town; Sporting Bengal United v Tunbridge Wells

KENT SENIOR TROPHY SECOND ROUND: Milton & Fulston v Sevenoaks Town (1.30pm)

KENT SENIOR TROPHY QUARTER-FINALS: Faversham Town v Hollands & Blair; Greenwich Borough v Lordswood (1.30pm); Herne Bay v Holmesdale

FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLES

COCA COLA LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Leeds United	24	17	6	1	46	14	+32	57
2 Norwich City	25	15	6	4	54	28	+26	51
3 Charlton Athletic	24	13	9	2	46	27	+19	48
4 Colchester United	23	13	6	4	39	21	+18	45
5 Huddersfield Town	23	11	5	7	46	28	+18	38
6 Swindon Town	22	10	8	4	31	29	+2	38
7 Millwall	24	9	9	6	35	28	+7	36
8 Milton Keynes Dons	24	11	3	10	33	33	0	36
9 Bristol Rovers	23	11	1	11	32	36	-4	34
10 Walsall	22	8	7	7	32	29	+3	31
11 Hartlepool United	24	8	6	10	32	33	-1	30
12 Brentford	24	7	9	8	22	26	-4	30
13 Southend United	24	8	5	11	28	32	-4	29
14 Southampton (-10)	24	10	8	6	42	29	+13	28
15 Yeovil Town	24	6	10	8	33	35	-2	28
16 Carlisle United	22	7	7	8	28	30	-2	28
17 Gillingham	**24**	**7**	**5**	**12**	**29**	**34**	**-5**	**26**
18 Exeter City	25	6	8	11	27	38	-11	26
19 Oldham Athletic	23	6	7	10	20	29	-9	25
20 Brighton & Hove	24	6	6	12	30	43	-13	24
21 Leyton Orient	24	6	6	12	28	41	-13	24
22 Tranmere Rovers	23	6	3	14	21	43	-22	21
23 Wycombe Wanderers	26	4	7	15	25	47	-22	19
24 Stockport County	23	3	5	15	21	47	-26	14

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Stevenage Borough	27	16	9	2	47	19	+28	57
2 Oxford United	24	17	5	2	46	18	+28	56
3 York City	25	14	7	4	37	22	+15	49
4 Mansfield Town	25	13	5	7	39	29	+10	44
5 AFC Wimbledon	26	12	7	7	44	23	+21	43
6 Kettering Town	25	12	6	7	31	21	+10	42
7 Luton Town	23	11	7	5	31	22	+9	40
8 Rushden & Diamonds	24	11	6	7	37	27	+10	39
9 Kidderminster Harriers	26	11	5	10	33	27	+6	38
10 Crawley Town	27	11	5	11	31	36	-5	38
11 Histon	24	9	7	8	30	28	+2	34
12 Cambridge United	26	8	9	9	42	36	+6	33
13 Altrincham	23	8	8	7	25	21	+4	32
14 Hayes & Yeading	26	8	8	10	31	38	-7	32
15 Tamworth	26	7	10	9	27	30	-3	31
16 Barrow	24	6	10	8	27	36	-9	28
17 Wrexham	22	7	6	9	21	21	0	27
18 Salisbury City (-10)	26	10	4	12	28	36	-8	24
19 Gateshead (-1)	25	6	5	14	30	42	-12	22
20 Eastbourne Borough	26	4	10	12	23	41	-18	22
21 Ebbsfleet United	**27**	**5**	**6**	**16**	**21**	**46**	**-25**	**21**
22 Forest Green Rovers	25	4	8	13	21	43	-22	20
23 Grays Athletic	27	3	8	16	26	53	-27	17
24 Chester City (-25)	25	5	7	13	22	35	-13	-3

BLUE SQUARE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Newport County	23	17	5	1	44	9	+35	56
2 Woking	24	12	6	6	30	22	+8	42
3 Dover Athletic	**25**	**12**	**5**	**8**	**42**	**34**	**+8**	**41**
4 Chelmsford City	24	12	5	7	31	29	+2	41
5 Braintree Town	22	10	9	3	30	21	+9	39
6 Thurrock	23	11	6	6	39	32	+7	39
7 Eastleigh	22	10	5	7	42	28	+14	35
8 Bromley	**22**	**10**	**5**	**7**	**35**	**30**	**+5**	**35**
9 Bath City	22	9	7	6	38	28	+10	34
10 Staines Town	24	8	10	6	32	23	+9	34
11 Welling United	**24**	**10**	**4**	**10**	**28**	**30**	**-2**	**34**
12 St Albans City	24	9	5	10	29	30	-1	32
13 Basingstoke Town	24	9	5	10	26	37	-11	32
14 Bishop's Stortford	23	8	6	9	30	29	+1	30
15 Havant & Waterlooville	20	6	9	5	24	23	+1	27
16 Maidenhead United	22	6	8	8	26	26	0	26
17 Dorchester Town	23	6	4	13	29	46	-17	22
18 Hampton & Richmond	21	5	6	10	27	36	-9	21
19 Worcester City	23	4	7	12	23	30	-7	19
20 Lewes	22	3	8	11	22	36	-14	17
21 Weston-super-Mare	23	4	4	15	30	48	-18	16
22 Weymouth	22	3	5	14	17	47	-30	14

RYMAN PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Dartford	**20**	**16**	**3**	**1**	**58**	**17**	**+41**	**51**
2 Hastings United	24	12	4	8	41	33	+8	40
3 Kingstonian	22	11	3	8	42	40	+2	36
4 Wealdstone	17	9	6	2	28	23	+5	33
5 Tooting & Mitcham	20	9	4	7	31	27	+4	31
6 Sutton United	20	9	3	8	31	20	+11	30
7 Maidstone United	**21**	**8**	**5**	**8**	**25**	**26**	**-1**	**29**
8 Horsham	19	8	4	7	33	27	+6	28
9 Canvey Island	20	8	4	8	29	30	-1	28
10 Ashford Town (Mx)	21	7	7	7	36	39	-3	28
11 Boreham Wood	19	8	3	8	24	20	+4	27
12 AFC Hornchurch	20	7	6	7	24	25	-1	27
13 Harrow Borough	21	7	5	9	32	35	-3	26
14 Tonbridge Angels	**21**	**7**	**5**	**9**	**36**	**41**	**-5**	**26**
15 Aveley	19	7	4	8	36	34	+2	25
16 Hendon	18	7	3	8	28	29	-1	24
17 Carshalton Athletic	19	6	5	8	28	35	-7	23
18 Margate	**19**	**6**	**4**	**9**	**25**	**36**	**-11**	**22**
19 Cray Wanderers	**23**	**6**	**4**	**13**	**27**	**44**	**-17**	**22**
20 Bognor Regis Town	21	4	7	10	23	34	-11	19
21 Billericay Town	16	4	6	6	14	19	-5	18
22 Waltham Abbey	20	4	5	11	22	39	-17	17

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Folkestone Invicta	**21**	**15**	**5**	**1**	**30**	**11**	**+19**	**50**
2 Worthing	22	14	1	7	45	28	+17	43
3 Godalming Town	20	12	3	5	38	23	+15	39
4 Walton & Hersham	21	11	4	6	32	25	+7	37
5 Croydon Athletic	19	10	6	3	44	23	+21	36
6 Fleet Town	20	10	3	7	37	26	+11	33
7 Ramsgate	**20**	**9**	**5**	**6**	**31**	**24**	**+7**	**32**
8 Merstham	21	9	5	7	33	34	-1	32
9 Chatham Town	**22**	**9**	**3**	**10**	**33**	**39**	**-6**	**30**
10 Sittingbourne	**18**	**8**	**4**	**6**	**27**	**20**	**+7**	**28**
11 Burgess Hill Town	19	8	4	7	28	26	+2	28
12 Corinthian-Casuals	21	8	3	10	35	38	-3	27
13 Whyteleafe	21	8	2	11	31	29	+2	26
14 Dulwich Hamlet	20	6	8	6	32	32	0	26
15 Leatherhead	18	7	3	8	23	19	+4	24
16 Horsham YMCA	22	5	9	8	30	34	-4	24
17 Metropolitan Police	20	5	7	8	30	27	+3	22
18 Walton Casuals	20	6	4	10	25	32	-7	22
19 Chipstead	22	5	5	12	23	37	-14	20
20 Whitstable Town	**21**	**5**	**2**	**14**	**15**	**42**	**-27**	**17**
21 Eastbourne Town	22	3	7	12	19	42	-23	16
22 Ashford Town	**18**	**2**	**5**	**11**	**17**	**47**	**-30**	**11**

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Faversham Town	15	11	2	2	37	13	24	35
2 Herne Bay	13	9	1	3	34	21	13	28
3 Erith & Belvedere	14	9	0	5	30	26	4	27
4 Sevenoaks Town	14	7	3	4	31	25	6	24
5 Beckenham Town	13	7	1	5	24	15	9	22
6 Greenwich Borough	14	6	3	5	25	25	0	21
7 Hythe Town	11	5	4	2	25	9	16	19
8 Tunbridge Wells	15	4	7	4	25	25	0	19
9 Erith Town	11	5	3	3	25	18	7	18
10 Sporting Bengal Utd	14	5	3	6	30	40	-10	18
11 Deal Town	12	4	4	4	21	25	-4	16
12 Norton Sports	12	4	1	7	13	18	-5	13
13 Holmesdale	14	4	1	9	24	30	-6	13
14 Fisher	16	3	3	10	22	40	-18	12
15 Corinthian	13	2	3	8	16	31	-15	9
16 Lordswood	11	0	3	8	7	28	-21	3

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

FAIR WEATHER: Tonbridge Juddians (red and blue) against Warlingham earlier this season

Hopes of playing a thaw point for TJs

Warlingham RFC v Tonbridge Juddians RFC

KICK-OFF 2.15PM AT HAMSEY GREEN

AFTER seeing last week's derby with Sevenoaks called off due to a snow-covered pitch, Tonbridge Juddians are braced for further disappointment as their game at Warlingham is a major doubt.

A spokesman for the Surrey side said it was "wishful thinking" to think the game could be played.

"The thaw is under way but the pitch is under eight inches of snow," he said. "We'll carry out an inspection, but I fear it'll just be going through the motions really."

When the two sides met at The Slade back in October, TJs topped the table and Warlingham were second.

Yet any thoughts of a tense encounter evaporated during the first-half, with TJs steamrollering a side they had expected to give them a stern challenge.

Having failed to encroach into the league leader's territory for virtually the entire half, the Surrey side restored some pride in the second period, outscoring them 14-13, leaving the final scoreline a slightly more respectable 52-14.

Warlingham have fallen away slightly since then and are fourth, having missed an opportunity to close in on the leaders when they lost 18-20 at home to Purley John Fisher a fortnight ago.

TJs' second-team are without a game this weekend, but the 3rds and 4ths are both due to play home fixtures with Sevenoaks, the 5ths are away to Tunbridge Wells and the women's XV travel to Aylesford on Sunday.

Two of the women's squad, Paula Smith and Araminta Meade, have both been selected to play for the South East of England regional squad.

Victory will shoot team up the table

Club returns after snow hijacks Wanderers game

By STEVE TERVET

Tunbridge Wells RFC v Old Colfeians RFC

KICK-OFF 2.15PM AT ST MARK'S RECREATION GROUND

HAVING seen their game at Thanet Wanderers snowed off seven days ago, Tunbridge Wells turn their attention to Old Colfeians this afternoon knowing a win can help them climb two league places.

Both sides were victorious the last time rugby beat the weather, with Wells 29-10 winners against Maidstone, while Colfeians saw off Old Elthamians 25-16 on January 2.

When the pair met back in October, Paul Hathaway's side were slow out of the blocks and never recovered, eventually losing 27-18, but Colfeians remain just four points ahead of today's hosts and Wells are ready to close the gap.

Chairman Roger Clarke said: "It does add an extra incentive, as will the Old Elthamians game [next Saturday] because we've got the chance to put some blue sky between us and the sides around us, so these are the games which could make or break our season.

"We had a very close game at Old Colfeians – they ran away with the first-half and I don't think we played that well. They're not as good a side away as they are at home and I think we can play better – we need to."

The Wells side will be unchanged from the team named to face Thanet last Saturday, with Pete Binham, Dane Hurley and Iain Bartley all included in the pack, but South African scrum-half JP Coombes only landed in the UK 48 hours ago and will play no part today.

With the big freeze halting outdoor practice sessions, Hathaway's squad have trained in the gym at the Judd School and Wells have enjoyed better fortunes than other London 1 South sides in recent weeks.

Coupled with the Maidstone win a fortnight ago, the majority of the first XV were given a run-out in the Boxing Day game against a Chairman's Select XV, while some of their rivals have not taken to the field for five weeks.

Wells have won their last four home games while Colfeians' only defeat in their last six outings came at the hands of leaders Gravesend on November 28.

Picture: BRUCE ELLIOT

INCENTIVE: Tunbridge Wells (tackling) could go sixth in London 1 South with a win today

RUGBY LEAGUE TABLES

LONDON 1 SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Gravesend	15	13	0	2	366	151	+215	26
2 Dover	14	11	1	2	363	192	+171	23
3 Cobham	14	10	0	4	331	193	+138	20
4 Chichester	15	9	0	6	294	176	+118	18
5 Old Colfeians	15	9	0	6	328	273	+55	18
6 Sidcup	15	8	1	6	297	243	+54	17
7 Chobham	14	8	0	6	305	277	+28	16
8 Beckenham	15	7	1	7	260	287	-27	15
9 Wimbledon	15	7	0	8	251	282	-31	14
10 Tunbridge Wells	**15**	**7**	**0**	**8**	**245**	**312**	**-67**	**14**
11 Thanet Wanderers	14	6	1	7	237	275	-38	13
12 Old Elthamians	15	5	0	10	260	288	-28	10
13 Maidstone	15	1	0	14	135	501	-366	2
14 Aylesford Bulls	15	0	0	15	164	386	-222	-2

LONDON 2 SOUTH EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Tonbridge Juddians	**12**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**617**	**91**	**+526**	**24**
2 Hove	11	9	1	1	328	99	+229	19
3 Sevenoaks	**11**	**8**	**0**	**3**	**304**	**272**	**+32**	**16**
4 Warlingham	12	7	1	4	353	160	+193	15
5 Old Reigatian	12	6	1	5	262	262	0	13
6 KCS Old Boys	12	6	1	5	241	345	-104	13
7 Lewes	11	6	0	5	170	227	-57	12
8 Deal & Betteshanger	12	4	0	8	184	225	-41	8
9 Purley John Fisher	12	4	0	8	189	292	-103	8
10 Bromley	12	3	0	9	207	321	-114	6
11 Old Dunstonians	12	3	0	9	145	392	-247	6
12 Eastbourne	11	0	0	11	87	401	-314	0

KENT 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	Pts
1 Dartfordians	11	11	0	0	326	84	+242	22
2 Cranbrook	**12**	**8**	**0**	**4**	**284**	**171**	**+113**	**16**
3 Guy's Hospital	12	8	0	4	311	217	+94	16
4 Sittingbourne	11	7	1	3	263	150	+113	15
5 Vigo	12	7	1	4	222	180	+42	15
6 Gillingham Anchorians	12	7	0	5	220	181	+39	14
7 Old Olavians	11	4	1	6	163	209	-46	9
8 Beccehamian	11	4	1	6	147	255	-108	9
9 Ashford	12	3	1	8	172	230	-58	7
10 Erith	11	4	1	6	111	235	-124	7
11 HSBC	12	2	0	10	157	268	-111	4
12 Sheppey	11	1	0	10	115	311	-196	2

Weather's Cranes' biggest threat

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

FORECAST: Cranbrook's match at Sheppey is under threat due to the recent freezing weather

Sheppey RFC v Cranbrook RFC

KICK-OFF 2.15PM AT THE DITCH

THERE'S hope rather than expectation that Cranbrook will be able to travel to Sheppey this afternoon, though if the Kent 1 fixture does go ahead, the Cranes will make the 66-mile round trip in expectation rather than hope.

The Islanders are bottom of Kent 1 and suffering from the dreaded 'transitional season' as they attempt to mould an inexperienced side into something more battle-hardened.

It's a problem the Cranes' director of rugby, Mike Catt, can readily identify with.

"They're a very young side who are rebuilding with limited resources," he said. "And it's going to be more difficult for them because we've got lots of rugby-playing schools around us and they haven't really. We've always had an influx of players."

Cranbrook's preparations for the game have been hit by the weather, with the facilities they used at a local school last week no longer available due to the number of boarders returning.

Last week's game with Old Olavians was called off 48 hours before kick-off, giving the squad plenty of notice, but Catt says his team are eager to play and warns that any further cancellations could put the club's participation in cup competitions at risk.

"I can't see where we can fit them in," he admitted. "Obviously the league is more important and if we have any more postponements I can't see us playing a cup game before April so the Kent RFU are going to have to make a decision."

Conditions dash cross-country hopes

THE big freeze has claimed yet another of the county's sporting events with this afternoon's Kent Schools Cross Country Championships postponed.

Aspiring young cross-country athletes from schools across the county were due to descend on the Wilmington Boys Grammar School near Dartford to compete for places in the Kent Schools team.

However, dangerous icy conditions at the venue and travelling difficulties have forced organisers to postpone and rearrange the event for February 6.

The competition sees athletes represent their schools in three age groups; juniors (years 8-9), intermediates (years 10-11) and seniors (years 12-13).

The top finishers from each race are then selected to compete for Kent at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in March.

Head of the junior section at Tonbridge Athletic Club, Mark Hookway, coaches a number of athletes competing from Tonbridge and Sevenoaks schools.

He admitted it was the right decision to postpone the event, but remains frustrated by the effect the weather is having on cross-country.

DISAPPOINTMENT: Kent Schools Cross Country Championships have been cancelled

He said: "We had a lot of athletes ready to take part in the event for their schools and it is incredibly frustrating that it has been postponed. The weather really is causing havoc for cross-country at the moment.

"We have not been able to do much training because of the ice and during the week all we have been able to do is clear a 200-metre section of our playing field and train on that, which is not ideal."

Picture: NICK DUNIGAN

FRUSTRATED: Sevenoaks' Simon Jones

Town hope to get trophy tie under way at fourth attempt

Milton & Fulston United v Sevenoaks Town

KICK-OFF 1.30PM AT BOURNE PARK

WHAT could be called the Never Starting Story may finally get under way this afternoon, when Sevenoaks Town are due to play their Kent Senior Trophy tie with Milton & Fulston United.

The game has already been postponed three times and with Sittingbourne's Bourne Park – used by Milton for today's game – well known for not being the best ground in terms of drainage, Town boss Simon Jones isn't holding his breath.

He said: "We haven't even been able to train indoors this week because the school halls are all taken for exams.

"So the players have been doing their own thing. Some of them have been running or going to the gym, but it's not the same running when there's no one else there and you lose the camaraderie."

Lee Demaertelaere was due to resume training this week, after a luckless October which saw him concussed and then suffer knee ligament damage.

Alfred Koroma could also resume training soon, if he shakes off long-term ankle and groin complaints.

Town were due to play Deal Town in the Kent League Cup quarter-final first leg on Tuesday night, but with six inches of snow covering the pitch at Greatness Park, there was no option but to call the game off and will now take place this Tuesday.

Dismissal

If Town do beat Milton today, they will then play Deal away in the next round the following Saturday, before concluding a triple-header with the quarter-final second leg four days later.

Elsewhere, Jones has made a written appeal against his dismissal for foul and abusive language during the game with Faversham on December 5, pleading mistaken identity.

Jones had been treating an injured player and was walking back to the dug out along the touchline when a supporter allegedly abused the referee, Con Hatzidakis.

The linesman claimed the abuse came from Jones and he was subsequently sent off.

"It was such an obvious case of mistaken identity," Jones said. "We're trying to track down the guy who actually swore at the referee, though he may not want to come forward, but the Faversham bench saw what happened and they've said they'll back me.

Wells facing tough task to tame Tigers

Fast-improving Bengal a difficult away day

By STEVE TERVET

Sporting Bengal United v Tunbridge Wells

KICK-OFF 3PM AT MILE END STADIUM

TUNBRIDGE Wells face the Kent League's most unpredictable side today as they bid to kick-start their season with a win which could send them sixth.

In what was manager Martin Larkin's first game in charge, Wells thrashed Sporting 6-0 at Culverden Stadium on the opening day of the season but they are likely to face a very different outfit this afternoon.

Sporting, who select their side from the best players in London's Bengali summer league, have shown a drastic improvement to their 2008/09 campaign when they shipped 160 goals and failed to pick up a single point.

They now sit just one point and two places below Wells and Larkin knows his side must match their opening-day intensity if they are to complete the double over United.

He said: "They're a completely different side to last season. We were exceptional when we played them on the first day, we went 4-0 up inside 20 minutes but it was a strange feeling afterwards because there were patches when they were absolutely superb.

"They've got a new manager and a lot of new players but they've still got the same ethos, to look after the community, and they've got a real talent pool to tap into."

Larkin, who missed Wells' 3-0 defeat at Herne Bay a fortnight ago while on honeymoon, will be without injured midfielder Brad Draper this afternoon, while defender Steve Ashmore remains several weeks away from a return to first-team action.

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

TOUGH TEST: Sporting Bengal United will provide a real test for Tunbridge Wells (in red)

Benji Agana and Mike Lord both bagged a brace in the 6-0 mauling earlier in the season and the pair are likely to start up front in the return, although Larkin is close to adding at least one new forward to his young squad.

Wells sit eighth having drawn seven of their 15 fixtures so far, and the manager admits there is room for improvement.

He said: "We could have been a lot higher because we've drawn a lot of games from winning positions, but considering we started from scratch before the season I'm pretty happy.

"If there was a league table of what each team is paying its players we'd be in the bottom three.

"At this level, money can really talk and good luck to those teams at the top, but we have to do it the other way."

Send all your sports stories to sports editor Glenn Pearson at **glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk** or call the sportsdesk on **01303 817183**

Oaks ready whatever the weather

Picture: NICK DUNGAN

PREPARED Sevenoaks are ready for action despite fears their pitch may not be

Sevenoaks RFC v Eastbourne RFC

KICK-OFF 2.15PM AT KNOLE PADDOCK

BUCKING the almost universal trend for postponements, Sevenoaks believe there's a strong possibility today's London 2 South game with Eastbourne could go ahead.

A team of volunteers are working on the Knole Paddock pitch and coach James Leverington says his side will be training as usual.

"We prepare regardless," he said. "As they say, 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail'. We are in a rich vein of form and just want to play rugby."

While the Oaks go into the game with a full-strength squad and looking to record an eighth consecutive win, the contrast with the visitors from Sussex could hardly be greater.

They are averaging barely a converted try per game and have conceded a whopping 401 points so far this season.

With Eastbourne rock-bottom of the table and having failed to win all season, Leverington is aware of the obvious trap his side could fall into.

"It's easy to take things for granted, but the opposition still have 15 men that have played rugby before and at any point could disrupt our patterns of play or score points, so we must have full focus," he said.

The Oaks were given a tough time when they travelled to Sussex back in October.

They produced a schizophrenic display with moments of brilliance marred by lapses in concentration.

At one point they were reduced to 13-men, but managed to build a 20-0 lead at the break, only for Eastbourne to hit back in the second-half, giving the Oaks a fright before losing 38-29.

Yet the Blue and Golds haven't been able to play since losing 29-8 to Old Reigatians a month ago, their 11th consecutive defeat.

Leverington said: "I think they are struggling at the moment but we had our own struggles at the start of the season, so it needs a big fight to do this.

"The league doesn't lie, but it's a league where any team could be bottom."

DERBY DUST-UP

Bragging rights up for grabs as Tonbridge host Maidstone

By GLENN PEARSON

Tonbridge Angels v Maidstone United

KICK-OFF 3PM AT LONGMEAD STADIUM

A FIERCE local derby against your arch enemy is just the sort of fixture you need to win the fans back after a hammering in your last game.

That's what awaits Tonbridge Angels this afternoon – weather permitting – as Maidstone United make the short trip to Longmead Stadium.

Historically the fixture between the two sides has thrown up a few tussles, both on and off the pitch, and this afternoon's clash is likely to be no different as both clubs look to play their first competitive game for two weeks.

Postponed

Since the 5-1 thrashing at Hastings on January 2, the Angels have seen the League Cup game against Wealdstone postponed, while games against Cray Wanderers and Carshalton have all been called off because of snow on the Longmead turf.

If today's game does get the go ahead, Angels boss Tommy Warrilow is hoping his side can put the Hastings defeat behind them and is expecting his players to show they are ready to put up a fight.

"We are looking to bury the Hastings performance and for us it's a home game and a chance to get back on track and give our supporters something to cheer about," he said.

"I will be looking for a bit more of a solid backbone from us and we've got something to make up for after giving a two-goal lead away to them earlier in the season [a 2-2 draw]. We need to get some pride back in our game and there's nothing better than a local derby."

Warrilow will have to do without influential midfielders Lee Minshull and Kirk Watts who are still waiting to serve the first of their respective two-game bans.

It could provide an opportunity for some of the club's younger players such as Liam Baker and Sonny Miles, although Warrilow may look to experience for such a key derby game.

Leading scorer Carl Rook, who has netted four goals in four games against the Stones, is back after overcoming a back injury and will lead the line with fellow striker Paul Booth.

• ***For a report and reaction from the game, visit www.kentnews.co.uk.***

TARGET MAN: Carl Rook has netted four goals in four games against Maidstone

Angels v Stones 2007-2010

DESPITE a rivalry between Tonbridge and Maidstone that goes back for decades, the two clubs have met just five times in the league since the Stones reformed.

Tonbridge have won two, drawn two and lost one, scoring eight times. Maidstone have scored seven goals and received as many red cards.

22 SEPT 2007 — MAIDSTONE UNITED 2 TONBRIDGE ANGELS 1

Jon Main looked to have rescued a point for the Angels when he scored in the 82nd minute to cancel out Nick Hegley's early opener, but within two-minutes loan signing Luis Cumbers struck the winner, spelling the end for Tonbridge boss Tony Dolby.

ATTENDANCE: 528.

23 FEB 2008 — TONBRIDGE ANGELS 2 MAIDSTONE UNITED 1

A penalty and a close range strike from Carl Rook put the Angels 2-0 up at the break. Ex-Angel Lynden Rowland pulled one back but Stones boss Lloyd Hume was sent off, as were defender Lee Shearer and midfielder Rob Owen. The result was overshadowed by a row over stewarding – which led to some Stones fans boycotting the fixture the following year.

ATTENDANCE: 926

6 SEPT 2008 — MAIDSTONE UNITED 0 TONBRIDGE ANGELS 1

NINETY minutes of tedious stalemate during which neither side really threatened was ended when Jamie Cade scored a stoppage-time winner, prompting a dismissal for furious Stones skipper Jay Saunders.

ATTENDANCE: 574

17 JAN 2009 — TONBRIDGE ANGELS 2 MAIDSTONE UNITED 2

ON THE equivalent weekend a year ago the rivals produced a five-star classic. The Stones went 2-0 down to goals from John Westcott and Rook. Tonbridge could have been 4-0 up, but Meshach Nugent pulled one back and despite a red card for James Pinnock (and another for Hume), Roland Edge equalised with ten minutes left.

ATTENDANCE: 948.

5 SEPT 2009 — MAIDSTONE UNITED 2 TONBRIDGE ANGELS 2

ONCE again the Angels took a 2-0 lead and again they blew it. Rook scored from the penalty spot, Dean Hernandez-Bradshaw was sent off for retaliating against Kirk Watts and Lee Minshull scored in the second half, but James Pinnock's penalty made it 2-1 and in the 90th-minute Nathan Paul equalised with a cross-cum-shot.

ATTENDANCE: 447

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